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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli, Syrian Delegates Report Progress at Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Al-'Allaf: Syrian Document Basis for Negotiations *[Damascus Radio]* 2
Palestinians See 242 as 'Point of Reference' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 2
Another Delegate on Resolution 242 *[Jerusalem TV]* 3
Israel, Lebanon Discuss Joint Military Committee *[Beirut Radio]* 3
Al-Majali Terms Refugee Discussion 'Constructive' *[Amman TV]* 4
Israeli Delegate on 'Annoying' Water Talks Issues *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Message From Russian Leadership *[Algiers Radio]* 5
'Arafat, DFLP Envoy Discuss Peace Talks *[MENA]* 5
Delegation Head on PLO Position at Peace Talks *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 14 Sep]* 5
*PLO Freezes Joint Committee Activity *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Sep]* 6
PFLP Official Warns Against Iraqi Partition *[INA]* 6
PFLP-GC, Hamas Hold Meeting on Autonomy *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 7
Arabs Urged to Adopt Unified Strategy at Talks *[Algiers VOP]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Country's Goods Prohibited From Entering Morocco *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Authorities Crack Down on Armed Islamic Groups *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Police Arrest 10 People for Firearms Possession *[Algiers Radio]* 8

Egypt

Mubarak, al-Asad Review Peace Process *[MENA]* 8
UAE President, Mubarak To Meet 19 Sep *[MENA]* 9
Daily Views Israeli Proposals to Syria *[MENA]* 9
Daily: Talks Return Mideast Cause to World Focus *[Cairo Radio]* 9

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Marks al-Mukhtar Anniversary *[Tripoli TV]* 10

Morocco

King Hassan on Model Role of New Saharan Region *[Rabat Radio]* 11
Ex-Polisario Members Give Press Conference *[MAP]* 12

Sudan

Al-Bashir Assures UN Official of Juba's Security *[SUNA]* 14
Al-Bashir Says Country Will Give, Not Receive *[Omdurman Radio]* 14

Khalifah Said Ready for New Round of Abuja Talks *[SUNA]* 14
Group Admits Alliance With Al-Bashir Regime *[AL-HAYAH 13 Sep]* 14
Official Comments on Creation of Free Zone *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Airline Plans To Improve Service, Performance *[SUNA]* 15

Tunisia

Libyan Authorities Restrict Transit Across Border *[MENA]* 15
U.S. Donates $10 Million To Help Privatization *[Tunis Radio]* 16
Moroccan Bank To Fund Arab International Bank *[MAP]* 16
Iraqi Trade Minister Arrives for Economic Meeting *[INA]* 16
Committee Discusses Modifying Electoral System *[Tunisian Radio]* 16

IRAQ

Former Interior Minister Takes Refuge in Jordan *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 15 Sep]* 17
Regime Reportedly Moves Missiles Into al-Basrah
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 13 Sep] 17
Government Reportedly Forcing Out Shiites, Kurds 17
Citizens 'Kidnapped' in South *[Tehran Radio]* 17
'Evacuation Campaign' in East *[Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution]* 18
Kurdish Radio Reports Explosion at Zakho Hotel *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 18
Amnesty Granted to Army Deserters in al-Ta'mim *[Baghdad Radio]* 18
Saddam on Rebuilding of Republican Guards Facilities *[INA]* 18
Iran's Reaction to Arab League on Abu Musa Viewed *[INA]* 18
'Aziz Receives Russian 'National Forces' Group *[INA]* 19
Ramadan Meets With Algerian 'Democracy' Group *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Paper Carries Obituary of Mauritanian Ambassador *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 14 Sep]* 19

ISRAEL

Rabin Denies Rumor of Goodwill Gesture to Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Answers Questions on Peace Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Shamir Criticizes 'Concessions' at Peace Talks *[Tel Aviv TV]* 21
Envoy Denies Russia Selling Nuclear Arms to Arabs *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Chinese Foreign Minister Meets Peres, Others 22
PRC To Boycott UN Arms Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
No Reactor Sales to Iran, Algeria *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 22
Denies Military Cooperation Rumors *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Confers With Palestinians *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Invites Leaders To Visit China *[DAVAR 17 Sep]* 23
Firm Suspected of Smuggling Spare Parts to Iran *[HA'ARETZ 16 Sep]* 24
More on Investigation *[HA'ARETZ 17 Sep]* 24
Al-Husayni Comments on Peace, Palestinian Police *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 24

JORDAN

King Husayn Meets Foreign Personalities in London 26
Meets Lebanese Leader *[Amman Radio]* 26
Receives Kurdish Leader *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 26
Visits Kho'i Foundation *[Amman Radio]* 26
Information Minister on Secret Group, Peace Talks *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 14 Sep]* 26
*New Group Calls for Parliamentarians' Release *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Sep]* 28
Agreement To Reschedule German Debts Signed *[Amman Radio]* 28
Al-Sharif, Iraqi Daily Editor Review Arab Press *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 14 Sep]* 28

LEBANON

Cabinet Accepts Ministers' Resignations *[Beirut Radio]* 29
New Acting Finance Minister Named *[Beirut Radio]* 29
Communist Party Leader To Resign *[Beirut Radio]* 29

Phalangist Party Discusses Member's Kidnapping *[VOL]* 29
Buwayz Pressured To Monitor Peace Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 Sep]* 30

SYRIA

Al-Asad Returns From Talks With Egypt's Mubarak *[Damascus Radio]* 31
TISHRIN Views Al-Asad-Mubarak Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 31
Daily Notes Presidents' Talks, Lebanese Elections *[Damascus Radio]* 31
Commentary Views Israeli Peace Talks Response *[Damascus Radio]* 32
Dailies See Need for Change in Israeli Positions *[Damascus Radio]* 32

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Hezb-e Eslami Threatens Attack on Airport *[AFP]* 34
President Rabbani Meets With Army Officers *[Kabul Radio]* 34
Hekmatyar, Pakistani View Cease-Fire Violations *[Message of Freedom]* 34

India

Security Tightened in Strike-Hit Bihar State *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Opposition Criticizes Oil Products Price Hike *[Delhi Radio]* 35
Commentary: Pawar's Russian Visit 'Good Success' *[Delhi International]* 35
Daily Supports Call for Restructuring UN *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 5 Sep]* 36

Iran

Ahmad Khomeyni Defends Foreign Policy *[Tehran Radio]* 37
Dailies Urge Regional Awareness on Abu Musa *[IRNA]* 37
Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations Reported to UN *[Tehran TV]* 38
Visa Agreement Concluded With Tajikistan *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Government To Send Economic Experts to Tajikistan *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Besharati, Poland's Arendarski Discuss Ties *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Cartoonist Jailed for Khomeyni Cartoon *[AFP]* 39

Nepal & Bhutan

Parliament Closes After Passing 40 Bills *[AFP]* 39
PRC To Help Construct Cancer Hospital *[AFP]* 40
Bhutanese Refugee Problem 'Finally' Recognized *[THE RISING NEPAL 2 Sep]* 40

Pakistan

Cooperation Agreement With Iran Outlined *[Islamabad Radio]* 40
Mauritian Prime Minister Begins Visit 14 Sep *[Islamabad TV]* 40
Sharif Cited on Kashmir, Bosnia, *[Islamabad Radio]* 40
Regional Issues Discussed *[Islamabad TV]* 41
Jugnauth Departs 16 Sep *[Islamabad TV]* 41
Editorial Says U.S Weapons Sales Creating Tension *[THE NEWS 13 Sep]* 41

Iraq

Sa'dun Shakir, former interior minister and head of intelligence, has taken refuge in Jordan with his family, prompting rumors that other former high-level officials will soon flee the country. AL-BAYAN and London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI both cite former Jordanian Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar as the source of reports that Sa'dun left Iraq, after the implementation of the no-fly zone, on the pretext of seeking medical treatment but later refused to return. Some sources are reportedly predicting that "several more of the regime's former chief officials are thinking of leaving Iraq and abandoning Saddam." 'Arar, who is a close friend of Shakir, reports that he is "currently living in fear of the Iraqi regime's retaliation because of his stay in Jordan with his family and his refusal to return home."

Israel

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen is meeting with high-level government officials and Palestinian leaders to discuss such issues as the Middle East peace talks, Chinese arms sales to the region, and nuclear reactors, Jerusalem radio reports. During a meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Qian promised that his country "would not sell nuclear reacters to Iran or Algeria...or do anything that could complicate the situation in the Middle East." Qian also met with eight leading Palestinians in the territories, headed by Faysal al-Husayni. The Chinese foreign minister has invited Peres, President Hayim Herzog, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to visit his country.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli team negotiating with Syria in Washington, said "some progress" was made in the talks held on 16 September, according to Jerusalem radio. His Syrian counterpart, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, said the Syrians had found "more understanding and readiness on Israel's part to discuss various issues." According to Damascus radio, al-'Allaf also said that "the Syrian document was adopted as the basis for negotiations" at the talks. A Palestinian delegate, meanwhile, told Tel Aviv IDF Radio that the Palestinians regard UN Resolution 242 as a "point of reference" in the current talks, and he distinguished between that term and "the full implementation" of the UN Resolution.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli, Syrian Delegates Report Progress at Talks

TA1609184992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Report from Washington by correspondent Arye Gus]

[Text] The meeting between the Israeli and Syrian delegations in Washington ended several minutes ago. Whereas the delegates wore grim or tough expressions during the first days of the week, today both Itamar Rabinovich and Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation were smiling. Al-'Allaf said that a certain measure of progress had been made today, or to put it more precisely, that the ice had been broken. We discussed the principle of land for peace, al-'Allaf said. Obviously, this expression is unacceptable to Israel, but that was the term used by the Syrian representative. Al-'Allaf said that although there clearly were still disagreements between the two parties, they had reached a stage in which the Israelis recognized the fact that the above principle stems from Security Council Resolution 242. When asked whether progress had been made, al-'Allaf said that if things continued to proceed as they did today, then tomorrow one possibly could say that some progress had been made. If things were to continue in this vein, al-'Allaf noted, then perhaps something more serious will be achievable before the current round of talks ends late next week.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf also said that the Syrian document was discussed today. He said that the Israeli representatives' comments and requests for amendments were received, but since the Syrian document was extremely long and detailed, the Syrians could not issue their response today. The parties have not touched on the main elements yet, but general agreement was reached regarding the framework. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf said that the Syrians felt that there was more understanding and readiness on Israel's part to discuss various issues. General principles were formulated during today's meeting, and perhaps that was what the parties were referring to when they spoke of a certain degree of progress. Agreement was reached on general principles, but the really tough negotiations will take place tomorrow when the details are discussed. At any rate, the Syrians felt that some progress was made.

The head of the Israeli delegation said: Yesterday I said that it had been a tough day. Today also was tough, but it also has been pleasant. Some progress was made in several fields, and we agreed on various issues and formulations. Negotiations involve a certain degree of haggling and there are ups and downs, but we agreed about the general nature of the arrangement we seek, which is a peace accord with reciprocity on security issues and arrangements.

The Israeli and Syrian delegations today discussed the general aspects of security, or in other words, an Israeli withdrawal from the territories, as demanded by the Syrians, but also other more general aspects pertaining to the nature of peace. Itamar Rabinovich said that the Syrian reaction to the Israeli representatives' statements on the nature of peace were satisfactory, but not all points were discussed and some issues were left for tomorrow. At least we agreed that both sides of the equation—land, or as Israel puts it, the territorial dimension and various aspects of peace—will be discussed in parallel.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 16 September broadcasts a similar report which adds that Israeli delegation head Itamar Rabinovich said that "both parties had agreed on a connection [[qesher]] between the territorial dimension and a peace agreement." The report goes on to say that "the head of the Syrian delegation promised that if matters continue to proceed as they did today, then what he called a serious agreement would be reached by the end of next week."]

Al-'Allaf: Syrian Document Basis for Negotiations

JN1709054692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0420 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Washington—The Arab delegations to the Middle East peace talks yesterday held their 11th meeting in the current sixth round. Yesterday's talks between the Syrian Arab delegation and the Israeli side were marked with greater seriousness.

The Syrian document was adopted as a basis for the negotiations, and a discussion was started on the paragraphs of this document. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation, said that discussion on this document will continue during today's meeting and in the next meeting. Al-'Allaf said he hopes the same serious atmosphere that marked yesterday's talks will continue.

Asked about the points of the Syrian document that were discussed and whether the principle of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories was discussed or not, al-'Allaf said: We are still discussing the general framework of the Syrian document and the part relating to the general principles, and we touched on that principle. In today's meeting and in the next meeting, however, we will reach those paragraphs in the document which deal with the issue of withdrawal in more detail.

Asked if the principle of exchanging land for peace was discussed in yesterday's talks, al-'Allaf said: Yes. We talked extensively about the land for peace formula. Naturally, there is no agreement in viewpoints on this principle. However, we have managed to make the Israeli side acknowledge that this principle emanates from Resolution 242. But, still, there is a difference in stands.

Palestinians See 242 as 'Point of Reference'

TA1709073192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The Palestinian demand to mention Resolution 242 in the framework agreement for the interim period

as well is not a precondition but a guarantee to prevent Israel from establishing facts in the area. Our correspondent has learned this from a senior adviser to the Palestinian delegation in Washington. Resolution 242 stipulates a withdrawal from territories and refers to the permanent rather than the interim arrangement, and the Americans side with Israel on this. Our correspondent Eldad Beck reports from Washington:

Believe me, at his point it is easier to negotiate with Rabin than with the Americans, a member of the Palestinian delegation told IDF Radio, in view of the increasing U.S. Administration pressure on the Palestinians to begin practical negotiations on Israel's proposals and to stop their preoccupation with the permanent solution. Still, despite this pressure, the members of the Palestinian delegation, who arrived for the talks with the Israelis yesterday wearing black ties to mark the 10th anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre, again raised their demand that Resolution 242 be included in the framework agreement on the interim period. Resolution 242, Ilyas Sanbar says, is slated, according to our conception, to serve as a source of inspiration for the interim stage, in order to guarantee the success of the permanent solution. The Palestinians are interested in Resolution 242 as a guarantee. It is important that the Israelis understand, Sanbar notes, that Israel is the ruling power in the territories and that it can change reality and introduce extensive changes. The inclusion of Resolution 242 in the framework of the agreement will restrict Israeli activities that may influence the future of the permanent solution. Here Ilyas Sanbar used a term which the Israelis have not yet heard in the negotiations room: a point of reference.

[Sanbar speaks in French, followed by Beck's translation] One should distinguish between referring to Resolution 242 as a point of reference and the full implementation of this UN Security Council resolution. The implementation of the resolution will be subject to negotiations, but one should recognize, in advance, that the resolution is a point of reference on the basis of which it will be possible to resolve disputes arising between the parties in the course of the negotiations on the interim solution. It is impossible to continue the process without a point of reference that will prevent a deadlock. Such a reference, Sanbar believes, is a condition for the success of the process, although the Israelis do not think so.

[Sanbar speaks in French, followed by Beck's translation] If several Palestinian demands are met, Ilyas Sanbar believes, important progress may be achieved in the 10 remaining days of the current round of talks, although it is doubtful whether a joint paper will be reached. Time is too short.

Is the pressure from the United States increasing as a result? The Palestinian delegation, Sanbar admits, has held intensive talks with the Americans over the past few days regarding Resolution 242. The talks are still going on in an attempt to find a formula that will allow with the issue to be dealt with in depth.

Another Delegate on Resolution 242

JN1609193992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Statement by Mamduh al-'Akir, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, made to TV correspondent Shlomo Ganor in Washington on 16 September—recorded]

[Text] I can say that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are now at a crossroads. Either there will be progress and possible achievement, or there will be a deadlock. In our view as a Palestinian delegation, all of this depends on the Israeli side and the extent of its readiness to voice its good intentions in this negotiating process.

All we want from the Israeli side are two basic points:

1. Clear announcement that Resolution 242 applies to the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. This does not necessarily mean entering into negotiations now on how to implement 242.

2. That the Israeli side should be committed not to take any practical measures on the ground which, during the transitional period, could hinder the implementation of 242 when the final round of negotiations starts with the beginning of the third year of the transitional period.

In fact I believe that there is a real possibility for progress and achievement. There are real, ripe circumstances for possible results. At the same time, the very important indications which emerged with the election of a new Israeli Government have not been reflected at the negotiating table or in the substance of the Israeli stands.

Israel, Lebanon Discuss Joint Military Committee

NC1709054092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Yesterday's session of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations in Washington focused on the Lebanese reply to the Israeli proposal to form a joint military committee.

Ambassador Suhayl Shammas said afterward that the Lebanese reply was a preliminary one, an analysis of the Israeli proposal. He refused to reveal the contents of the Lebanese reply, adding that the Lebanese delegation will continue to work with the Israeli delegation to find the ways and means to ascertain on what they could agree and to boost the negotiating process. He added: The talks were frank. Each party is submitting its views to the other to try to clarify stands in anticipation of the time when they can agree on a fruitful action plan.

Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations with the Lebanese, described the session as useful. He said the two delegations continued discussing

the Israeli proposal to form a joint military committee to study security. He added: This is the start of a dialogue that we will continue.

Al-Majali Terms Refugee Discussion 'Constructive'

JN1609201392 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Murid Hammad dispatch from Washington]

[Text] The Arab delegations to the Middle East peace process continued efforts to bridge the gap with the Israeli negotiators after the Israelis failed to accommodate Arab suggestions on the four fronts of negotiations.

The 11th session of this round ended over an hour ago after which head of delegation Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said the talks centered on refugees.

[Begin recording] [al-Majali] We exchanged ideas about one item on the agenda which is refugees and how to refer the discussion. It was very constructive discussion but we could not yet reach a complete understanding on it. And the Israeli side brought an expert on environment and he gave his view about the environment in our area. And we concluded this morning by that we will come tomorrow morning to continue the discussion about the various points on the agenda.

[Unidentified reporter] The discussions that went on about the refugees. Is it as suggested by the agenda?

[Al-Majali] Well, the agenda.... [changes thought] We always refer to the relevant United Nations resolutions. So the Israelis have their views about which of these will be referred to. So we are discussing on either side what would be the right one.

[Reporter] Dr. al-Majali, we understand that earlier today you met Mr. Djerejian. Can you tell us about the meeting and what happened?

[Al-Majali] Well, this is a normal event that now and again we meet with the sponsors. So this morning I met with Mr. Djerejian and his staff, and we gave them a briefing on what's going on the track and our evaluation of the track so far. [end recording]

Delegation sources said efforts will continue to tackle crucial points on the proposed agenda, including Jordanian occupied territories, refugees, and arms control.

Meanwhile, there was no progress on the Palestinian track after Israel declined to deal with the issues of settlements in the occupied territories.

Yesterday, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Edward Djerejian met [Palestinian] delegation head Dr. Haydar Abd-al-Shafi and spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi.

Sources in Washington said the U.S. interfered in the talks on the Palestinian track to add a new momentum to Palestinian-Israeli talks.

The Palestinians have asked Israel to stop settlement activity in the occupied territories, including east Jerusalem in order not to prejudice the final status of the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, the Syrian and Israeli delegations said they could agree on mutual security arrangements as part of peace settlement, but this does not mean a breakthrough on the Syrian front.

Syria has criticized Israel for failing to mention the word withdrawal in its proposals on the Golan Heights.

Meanwhile, both the Israeli and Syrian proposals on the occupied heights remain far apart.

Israeli Delegate on 'Annoying' Water Talks Issues

TA1609192492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] In Washington, the multilateral talks on the Middle East water problems are continuing. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that during this evening's meeting, the Palestinians submitted demands that digress from the issues on the agenda, and therefore received no reply from the Israeli delegates. Our correspondent spoke with Avraham Katz-'Oz, the head of the Israeli delegation, about the linkage [previous word in English] between the multilateral and bilateral talks.

[Begin recording] [Katz-'Oz] First of all, a linkage was created in the fact that Israel coordinates both negotiation tracks on a daily basis and they both operate in conjunction. When this occurs at different times and different geographical locations, it can sometimes be physically difficult, but in this case we are fully coordinated information-wise on both the bilateral and multilateral tracks. This is very important for Israel, in my opinion. Second, this gave us the chance to make a very nice speech and tell our good friends the Palestinians that some of the proposals they raised here belong two rooms down the corridor, and we would be very grateful if they crossed the corridor to conclude this issue there.

[Golan] Are you referring to things such as the Palestinian demand to control the sources of water in the territories and the Jordan River waters.

[Katz-'Oz] Yes, and more than that. I was also referring primarily to their demands for recognition of their rights and to their demands that, before any discussion is held, pertinent bodies dealing with water issues be established. Water authorities of the Palestinians or something like this [last nine words in English], as well as other matters, pertain to the issues under discussion in the bilateral talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The issues they raised are quite annoying; I would not like to aggravate the Israeli public by telling them what we heard here. We were annoyed for their sake but kept silent, and that is alright. Our policy will definitely be not to react to any statement we consider objectionable that is raised there with the aim that our multilateral working

group should offer continuous support to the bilateral groups in their efforts to reach agreement.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Message From Russian Leadership

LD1309200792 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Yesterday evening brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received a message from the Russian leadership after he met with the Russian charge d'affaires in Tunisia.

During the meeting, there was a review of the peace process and of Russia's role, as one of the cosponsors of the peace conference, in rendering the peace process successful. They also discussed different aspects of the situation in the occupied territories, particularly the continuation of settlement activities and the Zionists' bloody and brutal repression of the Palestinian people. Palestinian-Russian relations were also discussed.

'Arafat, DFLP Envoy Discuss Peace Talks

NC1109210892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1158 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Tunis, 11 Sep (MENA)—MENA has learned that Taysir Khalid, a PLO Executive Committee member and the representative of Nayif Hawatimah's wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in the committee, participated in a meeting with the Palestinian leadership, led by Yasir 'Arafat, and members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation.

'Arafat asked Khalid to provide an explanation about a recent statement issued in Amman by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the DFLP, and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] demanding a halt to the negotiations and accusing the negotiating delegation of relinquishing Palestinian rights.

MENA also learned that Palestinian president 'Arafat told Khalid that the participation in the peace process has taken place according to a decision made by the Palestine National Council and the PLO Central Council, adding that the decision was made by a majority vote and was thus binding. 'Arafat also told Khalid that any faction objecting to the decision should do so within legitimate frameworks and PLO institutions.

'Arafat said that the Palestinian negotiating delegation is committed to the Palestinian constants on which the participation in the peace process was based: an Israeli withdrawal; a halt to settlement building in the occupied territories; and legislative elections during the transitional period.

Delegation Head on PLO Position at Peace Talks

LD1609150892 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 Sep 92 p4

[Fathi al-Barqawi report: "'Abd-Rabbuh: Palestinian Delegation Will Request Application of Resolution 242 to West Bank, Gaza Strip"]

[Text] Tunis—Not much is known about the results of the three meetings Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and his aides held with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations, and members of the delegation who came to Tunis, headquarters of the PLO, at 'Arafat's personal invitation. That is due to the secrecy shrouding the movement of the arrivals from Washington who have been kept, as much as possible, away from the media that have been pursuing them. As a consequence, some published reports have been inaccurate. AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has obtained some information about what happened. In addition to discussion of the events of the two weeks of the sixth round of negotiations, particularly the Israeli plan, described by PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh as being in essence no different from that submitted by the Israeli delegation under the former government of Yitzhaq Shamir, there was an emphatic rejection of that plan which "did not constitute a sound starting point."

'Abd-Rabbuh added that the discussions also covered the results of the meetings held by the Palestinian delegation with the U.S. Administration to discuss its commitment that all stages of the settlement be based on the application of UN Security Council Resolution 242 to the Palestinian front just as it is applicable to the Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese fronts, and also based on international legitimacy to ensure that it is a balanced and just settlement. The Palestinian official urged the Israeli side to commit itself from the beginning to arrangements for the transitional period in accordance with the UN resolution. That, he said, would facilitate discussions of a number of peripheral and procedural aspects and details including formation of subcommittees whose basic task would be to ensure the transfer of full authority to the Palestinian side and the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces and all other affiliates and establishments of the occupation, in addition to creating the right atmosphere for the Palestinian people to exercise their right to elect a legislative body under adequate UN supervision.

Asked about the authenticity of reports published recently to the effect that the PLO, in making preparations for legislative elections in the occupied territory, would nominate the members of the technical and advisory members of the negotiating delegation as its representatives, 'Abd-Rabbuh denied that categorically. He said that the election issue was no more than one step that would come during the transfer of authority under adequate UN supervision. All that, he said, must clearly be linked to the aims of the final settlement.

The Palestinian official was clear in stressing that the PLO has not yet made any arrangements for the legislative elections "because we cannot put the cart before the horse." He pointed out that once the Palestinians have their authority, they would he completely free to hold such elections in a manner that would serve the Palestinian people's interests. The alternative, he said, would be the deployment of UN forces in the occupied territory and holding the elections under their supervision. 'Abd-Rabbuh stressed the necessity of reaching agreement in the bilateral negotiations and of arriving at a formula for implementing Resolution 242. He warned against going into details and side issues, which would not yield any results and would take the process back to square one and pin the negotiations to the dead end they are facing now.

Commenting about statements made by U.S. and Israeli officials regarding application of Resolution 242 to the Syrian Golan Heights, he said we naturally ask them to make the same commitment for the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem. He emphasized, however, that that does not prevent discussion of transitional arrangements, provided they are in line with the UN resolutions and provided they lead to the fulfillment of the principles in these resolutions, especially complete withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territory and settlement of the refugee problem in accordance with the UN resolutions.

'Abd-Rabbuh described the reported important development in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations as a positive development, particularly in the light of Syria's confirmation that it rejects separate solutions and insists on a comprehensive solution on all fronts on the basis of Resolution 242. He noted that Israel was trying to resort to old tactics of dealing separately with each Arab side. An example of that, he said, was Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent statement that if a settlement began with the Syrians, the Palestinians would have to wait. These, he added, are exposed tactics, preceded by statements to the contrary by Rabin himself. He said that, in his view, the aim of these statements was to undermine the unified Arab position. He reaffirmed that the Palestinians understand and support the Syrian position requesting commitment to complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and rejection of phased arrangements which, he said, Israel would try to turn into final settlement arrangements and thus get normalization in return for the least possible withdrawal from the occupied Syrian territory. The Palestinian official said that the Arab delegations to the bilateral negotations should collectively request a U.S. and Israeli commitment regarding Resolution 242 as the basis of the settlement on all fronts without any exception.

'Abd-Rabbuh expressed astonishment at last week's reports about a visit to Saudi Arabia by a Palestinian delegation, including Faysal al-Husayni, but he revealed that the PLO was holding contacts with "some" fraternal Gulf states. Such contacts, he said, were necessary with the approach of the meetings of the multilateral committees and the mounting U.S. pressure for an end to the Arab boycott of Israel. That, he added, indicates that the U.S. Administration is trying to make this matter a major issue at these meetings, a matter that calls for Arab coordination meetings at the highest level with the participation of the Gulf states to face that possibility and agree to effectively link any progress in the multilateral negotiations to an Israeli commitment to the implementation of Resolution 242 on all fronts and initiation of arrangements for withdrawal from the occupied territories.

*PLO Freezes Joint Committee Activity

92P40274A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Sep 92 p 2

[Excerpts] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Palestinian sources in Cairo have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the PLO has decided to freeze the activities of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee which was formed at the beginning of the Arab-Israeli negotiations at the Madrid Conference last October. The sources said that, with this decision, the PLO becomes the sole recourse for the Palestinian delegation in the bilateral talks with Israel.

The PLO decision coincides with the turning of Yitzhaq Rabin's government toward cancelling the law forbidding contact with the PLO, a law which Yitzhaq Shamir's government had submitted to the Israeli Knesset.

[Passage omitted]

The sources indicated that the Palestinian negotiating strategy currently depends on broadening the scope of coordination with all Arab delegations participating in the negotiations, within the five-sided framework of Egypt and the Arab states bordering Israel.

PFLP Official Warns Against Iraqi Partition

JN1209122192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Sep (INA)—The assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] warned Arab regimes and the countries neighboring Iraq against supporting the scheme to partition Iraq. In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, PFLP Assistant Secretary General Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri] said that the cycle of fire will reach other Arab and regional states. He said that the scheme will not stop at Iraq's borders.

He said that successive imperialist-Zionist conspiratorial acts against Iraq aim at creating new colonialist arrangements in the Arab region, controlling its resources and markets, and preventing the Arab nation's development.

The PFLP official added that the Mother of Battles revealed the reality of the American double-standard policy. At a time when it claims that it is concerned about the Kurds in northern Iraq, it pushes the Turkish authorities and all its allies to liquidate, destroy, and kill the Kurdish people in Turkey.

He noted that the partition plan drawn by Zionist circles, and which America, its European allies, and agents—the so-called Iraqi opposition—are trying to implement in southern Iraq, will be foiled by the resistance and bravery of the united Iraqi people.

The PFLP assistant secretary general said: It is natural for American imperialism and its allies—the Arab regimes that fell in Hafar al-Batin—to continue the implementation of the Zionist scheme against Iraq and to use the so-called Iraqi opposition abroad as an executive tool, together with Iraq's regional neighbors, to strike at the bastion of confrontation and steadfastness in Mesopotamia. He added that the Palestinian people and their combat forces stand on the side of Iraq and its leadership in the same trench to face the imperialist-Zionist plan. He called on all honest Arab forces to sharpen their will and prepare their role to participate in Iraq's struggle.

PFLP-GC, Hamas Hold Meeting on Autonomy

JN1409080792 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] A meeting was held between the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. Both sides discussed the latest political developments and the ongoing conspiracy of autonomy aimed at liquidating the Palestine question. Both sides agreed to mobilize Palestinian forces and factions to confront this liquidation conspiracy. They also agreed to work jointly and intensify contacts to convene an urgent expanded meeting in the next few days to achieve united positions vis-a-vis this conspiracy to which our people are being exposed.

Arabs Urged to Adopt Unified Strategy at Talks

LD1509204792 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: The idea of land for peace adopted as a basic foundation of the negotiations between the Arabs and Israel stemmed from UN Resolution 242. A memory exercise would reveal to us that Rabin himself proposed the idea of land for peace in 1976 in order to abort the international attempt to convene an international peace conference and to replace such a conference with bilateral negotiations with the Arabs. But the question of Israeli settlement in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Golan Heights removed its basic substance from this idea, given that settlement meant confiscating Arab lands under futile historic, strategic, economic and security-related excuses. We do not sense any difference between the Labor and Likud parties concerning the degree of the need to carry on with settlements as a groundwork for the Zionist expansionist ideology. Differences are confined to semantics on the settlements process regarding justifications and various appellations. Thus, today we find ourselves in front of a terrible fact in the form of the confiscation of more than 42 percent of the lands of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Moreover, Rabin came to us with his proposal: land for peace, following in the heels of Lord Carrington, who had drafted Resolution 242. The Israeli side—accustomed to trickery and procrastination—is still interested in prolonging the time of the negotiations so as to find ways of putting pressure on the Arabs, including the fact of new settlements so that the Israeli negotiator can proceed from a fait accompli policy.

If their demands are not met at once, they will propose their demands be met gradually. Instead of negotiating over the existence of old settlements, they would negotiate over new settlements. Thus, the fait accompli policy becomes continuous. All this complicates and prolongs negotiations amid conflicting Arab positions. The question about the reality of international positions remains aimless, without answer, for as long as the Arab official policies do not arrive at formulating a unified strategy to the peace issue and fail to agree on tactical efforts.

How will international public opinion react to the Zionist enemy's tyranny and its misleading maneuvers, and how will the American position change in its support of the enemy in many of its demands, and how will momentum return to the UN resolutions and to what is termed international legality?

Once again, if a unified Arab position is not formulated, one that avoids acting hastily and that dots the i's, Zionist diplomacy will continue to deal with UN Resolution 242 as if it were one of the topics of the agenda of the negotiations.

Algeria

Country's Goods Prohibited From Entering Morocco

LD1709055292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] The war of goods wagons is continuing between Algeria and Morocco. On Monday [14 September] the Moroccan authorities refused entry to 37 wagons carrying goods. The refusal to allow Algerian goods wagons into Morocco, which started last July, is due, according to the Moroccan border authorities, to security reasons. On the other hand, a source at the national company in question has stated that the two parties are heading towards a temporary agreement while a final solution is being sought.

It is worth mentioning that about 100 trucks carrying materials for the production of cement were refused entry into Morocco last month for imaginary technical reasons, according to the Algerian Company of Rail Freight. This dispute is expected to be included in the agenda of the Maghreb ministerial council meeting on rail freight due to be held in November in Tripoli.

Authorities Crack Down on Armed Islamic Groups

LD1609025392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] It was learned from the National Gendarmerie Command that members of three groups affiliated with the armed Islamic Movement are still on the run across the capital and in the west and east of the country. They still carry out their activities of attacking civilians to seize cars and take money. The National Gendarmerie report says that the Mitidja group, which had been behind the most important terrorist activities as well as the clashes and arrests, has since the death of Mohamed Allel, alias Moh l'Eveille, been led by (Abdelkader Eleyada). The report also says that only 10 or 15 of the 42 members of this group remain.

The National Gendarmerie Command has confirmed that 10 members of the third group, which had attempted to entrench itself in the east of the country, had been eliminated and that two of them managed to escape during the Djemila operations in Setif last July.

This source made clear that the al-Hijra wal Takfir group [Fundamentalist Islamic], which consisted of 20 members, has abandoned its activity since February 1991 and that most of its members had left the country.

The security forces estimate the number of those remaining at about 200 members who make up a network of support for the strong elements in the armed Islamic Movement. The Gendarmerie services say that this network includes homeless youths and Islamic Movement supporters who carry out destruction of economic and communications equipment. As for stolen weapons which have yet to be retrieved, they are estimated at 170 pieces, including 20 Kalashnikov rifles and Beretta as well as 150 small-type weapons.

The National Gendarmerie, who consider themselves in a state of war against all forms of terrorism, believe that the majority of terrorists had declared their affiliation to the Islamic Movement, although a small number of them belong to the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], and that all of these, according to the National Gendarmerie, work on the orders of FIS activists.

Police Arrest 10 People for Firearms Possession

LD1709054992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Ten people have been arrested in Bechar for possessing firearms. This was announced by the National Gendarmerie Command. In the Blida wilaya, one of the brains behind the Meftah cement factory attack last Tuesday, has been identified. He is Abdelkader, age 27, who is Moroccan and lives in Meftah, according to the National Gendarmerie.

Egypt

Mubarak, al-Asad Review Peace Process

NC1609162092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1541 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Alexandria, 16 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, said that in their talks today, Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad reviewed the developments in the peace process, notably the ongoing talks in Washington.

In a statement to reporters following six hours of talks, al-Baz said that both presidents agreed that progress is needed in the peace talks to maintain the current momentum and overcome the difficulties that have begun to crop up.

Al-Baz said both presidents discussed all aspects of the Arab situation, especially the subject of the disputed islands between Iran and the United Arab Emirates. In light of the recent Arab deliberations, the resolution issued by the Arab foreign ministers conference, and the ongoing contacts to prevent a deterioration of the situation, both presidents agreed that Iran needs to take a more moderate policy on the issue.

Al-Baz said the two presidents reviewed the outcome of the Damascus Declaration states foreign ministers meeting. They expressed their hope that such meetings will produce executive steps that will be adopted in time to implement the agreements reached at the Doha meeting, including the consolidation of Arab security in the Gulf, more political and diplomatic coordination, and the strengthening of economic cooperation among the states that signed the declaration.

The two presidents reviewed ways to strengthen relations between Egypt and Syria. They gave their ideas and asked that they be adopted at the next meeting of the joint committee.

On the progress of the talks between the Arabs and Israel, al-Baz said that the current phase does not necessarily represent both sides' final positions. He said that with a bit of patience and a lot of work and persistence, a comprehensive, lasting, and just settlement will be reached.

Al-Baz said Egypt still believes that there is a chance to achieve tangible progress in the upcoming months.

UAE President, Mubarak To Meet 19 Sep

NC1709132992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1308 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I reports that United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan will arrive in Alexandria on 19 September for talks with President Husni Mubarak.

The newspaper reports that President Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid will discuss recent developments in the Gulf region and Iranian violations on Abu Musa, Tonb-e Bozorg, and Tonb-e Kuchek. They will also discuss the international situation and the Middle East peace process.

The newspaper reports that Shaykh Zayid's visit to Egypt is of particular importance in view of Egypt's declared official position supporting the UAE's rights on the three islands.

At its recent meeting in Cairo, the Arab League Council affirmed its support for the UAE and its denunciation of Iranian practices on the three islands.

Daily Views Israeli Proposals to Syria

NC1709081092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0637 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM writes in its comment today that Israel, as the resumption of the peace talks reveals, wants to reach an agreement in advance with Syria on the meaning of peace. It has presented the Syrian side with a declaration of principles, deliberately not describing these as proposals. This declaration stipulates mutual diplomatic recognition—appointing ambassadors, opening borders, and establishing economic ties, which means normalizing relations on the broadest level before taking one step out of the Golan Heights.

The paper adds that Israel's excuse is that the peace agreement needs five years to be arranged and that Israel wants to know the precise objective of the path it is following before it starts to move along.

The program defined for a final solution with the Palestinians is exactly the opposite, a period of autonomy [hukm dhati], also of five years, so that this solution will never lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The paper clarifies that talk about normalization before starting withdrawal, just like ruling out the establishment of a Palestinian state before starting to think about withdrawing from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, is like putting the cart before the horse. More logical is to have an agreement over the bases of peace, coinciding with the stages of withdrawal. That was what Syria proposed, because only practical steps—in their implementation—prepare the climate for normalization.

The paper affirms that the simultaneous exchange of security rights and guarantees to all parties, coupled with commitment to all the rulings of international legitimacy, in particular, not granting the occupation any rights, is the only formula good enough to be implemented.

Daily: Talks Return Mideast Cause to World Focus

NC1709091992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 17 Sep 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Bargaining Element in the Washington Talks," the newspaper AL-AKHBAR writes in its editorial today: Reports from Washington on the peace talks between the Arab and Israeli sides will continue to vacillate between optimism and pessimism. The paper believes that this is expected, especially since the talks are taking place between two sides whose hostility has lasted nearly half a century. The issues being discussed are complicated and intertwined. We did not really believe that anyone expected the sessions and talks to solve problems the various aspects of which interlink and have different goals.

The paper adds: It took nearly a year to bring together Israel and those Arab countries concerned in the peace process. The United States performed an undeniable role in overcoming many obstacles and urging many parties to the negotiating table. It was known from the start that the process would not be a picnic in Madrid or Washington. The Arab side must persevere, show wisdom, and be patient, because the Israeli side will not recognize Arab rights easily or without a price.

The paper clarifies that the Israeli nature lies in bargaining and in extracting the most benefits and privileges in return for every move it considers a concession. The skilled Arab negotiators must remember that while Israel might seem to have more with which to bargain, it also realizes that the peace that might be reached will benefit it first and foremost. Whatever the results of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, they have again returned the Middle East cause, particularly the Palestine question, to the focus of international interest.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Marks al-Mukhtar Anniversary

LD1609230592 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2011 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at celebrations of the Basic People's Congresses in al-Batnan district of al-Jabal al-Akhdar marking the 23rd anniversary of the September 1969 revolution and the 61st anniversary of the death 'Umar al-Mukhtar, on 16 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] Given the occasion, one's feelings at this moment are mixed by many things; one feels overwhelmed by feelings of hurt, happiness, and pride at the same time. On this day in 1931 Italian colonialism hung 'Umar al-Mukhtar at al-Sulul town. And it is my opinion that as from today I would like to see the hour at which 'Umar al-Mukhtar was executed to be the beginning of mourning throughout Libya until 'Umar al-Mukhtar's death is avenged in a manner that would bring satisfaction to us. [passage omitted]

When the English forces came to Libya they did not come to liberate it; they came to occupy it, as the war was between Italy and Britain. [passage omitted].

Here is the so-called United Nations; that is, the nations that united against Hitler and Mussolini. It is called the United Nations, which has now become a sword raised over our necks. In the name of the United Nations, hand over your sons. In the name of the United Nations, do not fly. In the name of the United Nations they divide Iraq; in the name of the United Nations they do not bother the Israelis; in the name of the United Nations they subjugate the Palestinians; in the name of the United Nations they tear apart any country; in the name of the United Nations they punish any country. Whose is this United Nations? The nations that have united militarily under the command of Eisenhower against Italy and Germany, which they call the United Nations. Then they told us this United Nations becomes an international organization; would you like to join it? What does it do? They said it makes peace. there will be no wars and no longer will one wrong another.

We told them by God this is good, and we joined. After we joined, they exploited it against us. They passed a resolution banning Libyan airlines to fly abroad, and no one was allowed to enter Libya, nor could we buy or sell weapons, in the name of the United Nations. We joined thinking that the United Nations would end injustice and tyranny and guarantee the rights of small and wronged peoples. And here it is, being used against us, injustice and tyranny being practiced against us. Forget it. It is possible for all the small peoples to regret joining and leave the United Nations, whose forces Eisenhower used to command. Eisenhower exists in history until now, still signing. When he announced the surrender of Italy or the surrender of Germany, he said: I, Dwight Eisenhower, commander in chief of the United Nations—not today's United Nations organization, the united [allied] nations against Germany and Italy. Britain was among the nations united against Italy and Germany.

So when Britain entered Libya it came to fight the Axis, it came to fight Italy and not to liberate Libya. The agents sided with the army that came to occupy Libya, and they removed the Italian occupation and put British occupation in its place. This is how the story goes and this is why 1 September 1969 is the Day of Independence. It was the day when Libya became independent for the first time. In other words, that was the real Day of Independence when Libya was returned to its people. [passage omitted]

I am aware of the problems facing this region and other regions in Libya. I am also aware of the problems facing the Arab homeland and the weak and small people scattered around the world who find themselves in the same situation as ourselves and who stand by us at the United Nations and who stand by us at international forums and who support us and whom we support. It is the peoples whom you are helping and whose liberation movements you are also helping who in the end stood by us. Now, Zimbabwe, who is a member of the Security Council, stood by us at the Security Council and voted against the resolution on the embargo. There is also Cape Verde. These are small states, and Cape Verde is a very small state, but we used to provide training to their sons in Libya, after the revolution, when they were fighting for their independence. We also provided training for liberation movements, and we helped them. Later we found these peoples on our side.

There is also India, the friend of the Arab nation. [Late Egyptian President] Al-Nasir used to repeat to us that: The Indians are the friends of the Arabs. In other words, India is a very big power in the world, and it stands by us and voted against the resolution on the embargo. China, with one- quarter of the world's population, also voted against this resolution and is standing by us. As for states like Belgium, Hungary, Austria, Japan, and God knows who else, these states have been colonized since World War II and are under U.S. domination. They tell us: We are helpless; we are with you with our hearts, but there is nothing we can do; we are not independent. These states have been America's colonies since World War II. Had it not been for the revolution, they [unspecified] would have liked to...[changes thought] ... in the same way as they colonized Europe. The regions that were occupied by Italy and the Allies would have stayed theirs forever, since Italy is now theirs. Libya, which was occupied by Italy, would have also been occupied. [passage omitted] The Arabs are also proud of 'Umar al-Mukhtar. The Arabs are proud of anything you do now. By God, the poor shaykhs in the Gulf, the emirs and the kings tell me: You relieve us when you talk, because we cannot say the words that we have in our hearts against the Americans. [applause] The main thing is that you are saying these words. What I mean is that this is one nation and it is a

glory for us all. Anyone who obliterates this glory is a stubborn person, an alien, someone who doubts himself. [passage omitted]

Husni Mubarak is a man who loves you. [applause] He contacts me continuously and is trying, as much as Egypt can, to contribute to finding a solution to the problem that created this historic and indeed honorable confrontation between Libya, the small people, and the colonialist, Christian, Western, nuclear superpowers. Although this confrontation is wrong, it honors us. [applause]. The states of the West that possess nuclear bombs and have the veto rights at the Security Council, the major rich, militarily strong Christian states are all allied against Libya. [passage omitted]

Following the removal of borders, trade, mixing, free movement, taking residence, and buying property in both Egypt and Libyan have become much easier for both peoples. All these will, of course, help the revival of this region.

As far as water is concerned, however, it is as I told you before: Water of the great man-made river will reach this region, God willing. We are determined to make it happen, God willing.

Our hope is that not only the waters of the man-made river would reach this region but also the waters of a natural river, the Nile, from the canal of al-Nawbariyah or from the Lake of Nasir, would also reach you. I hope that our brothers, the Egyptians, would also understand the great economic and historical value of linking the Nile with the great man-made river at Tubruq region and cooperate in this respect. Maybe the day would come when the great man-made river would link up with the Nile at Tubruq region; that is a possibility, God willing.

I am still telling you that the Arab people are one people, and the Arab homeland is indivisible. This is a motto from which we ought to benefit. This is the time when we should benefit from it. Have we not been saying that there is one Arab nation, one Arab people, and one Arab homeland from the Gulf to the Atlantic? Should we let this slogan be a mere slogan, or should we turn it to our benefit? What is its benefit? Its benefit means that we should not be thirsty when there is water in the one homeland. Waters in Sudan, Egypt and Chad are all ours.

First, because the Libyan people are everywhere in those aforementioned regions. Libyans have always converged on those areas in times of war, crisis, and drought. Libya has always extended help to Chad and Egypt, which is why there are so many Libyans everywhere.

The Maltese President [name indistinct] is a Libyan. President Husni Mubarak is from al-Baraghithah tribe; he is one of you; he is from the region. Look at his name: Mubarak is an unusual name in Egypt. Even his wife is from Libya; she is from a Libyan family. The speaker of the Syrian parliament is also a Libyan, [Former Tunisian President] Bourguiba was a Libyan. [Former Algerian President] Bendjedid was from al-Jadid in Sabha. [Arab League Secretary General] Ismat 'Abd al-Majid is from Misratah. [Former Egyptian Minister of War] 'Abd al-Hakim Amir was from Tarhunah. And you told me that the President 'Abd al-Nasir was from the Fakhir Tribe.

It will be very exciting news that Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir was from al-Fakhir tribe. Let us call him Fakhri. What does this mean? It means that Libya has always been the provider for those countries; not a taker. Libyans have been going to those countries and not people from those countries coming here.

Now we must go and live along the Nile. I can see 1 million Libyans living along the Nile, 1 million in Sudan, and 1 million in Chad, which will be a fantastic thing. [passage omitted]

Well, you go there with your money; you take money earned from your gas in order to expand in those regions and ease the pressure on this area—which is overpopulated and has very little water. Had it not been for the great man-made river, people would have started to die in a few years. It has been a colossal attempt to save life; had it not been for this river, life would have been nonexistent in a few years time. [passage omitted]

What I am trying to assert here is the fact that there is plenty of water in Egypt, Sudan, and Chad—water that is begging for someone to use for drinking or cultivation. It is a paradise over there, a paradise on this earth. So, there is no need for any of you to suffer on earth, awaiting the paradise in the other life.

Sudan told me yesterday to send 1 or 2 million Libyans. Where to, I asked. They replied: We have two rivers in the Blue Nile; one flows east and the other west through an empty desert; water is just being wasted there. Bring the whole Libyan people to live there, they added. [passage omitted]

Morocco

King Hassan on Model Role of New Saharan Region

LD1609185592 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Speech by King Hassan II to representatives of the Royal Consultative Council for Saharan Affairs on 16 September; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] Thanks be to God, peace and prayers be upon our lord the Messenger of God, his kinfolk and companions, ladies and gentlemen representatives of the Royal Consultative Council for Saharan Affairs [RCCSA] and of the Sahara inhabitants. Peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

We were deeply touched by the words uttered in your name by [Chairman of Laayoune Province Ulema Council] Fekih Larabas [who spoke before Hassan, praising the king's devotion to the Saharan people] because I feel, above all, that they came from your

conscience before they were written by your hands and perceptions. We were deeply touched by them because we found in them spiritual, emotional, and political agreement with the decentralization we aspire to, which will be, God willing, the key to prosperity for this faithful country. Consultation was prescribed by Islam. However, Islam did not prescribe it for the sake of it. It prescribed it for applicable things, and there is no better means or surer way for application, edification, work and consultation on what is in the good of all, than people handling their own affairs and problems without this being [word indistinct], as I have said, against the principles and anchors which ensure the unity of the territory and the unity of the ranks.

When we visited our southern capital, Laayoune, we said at the time that we did not demand the Sahara for its treasures or resources. Rather, we demanded it because it has always been part of the body of Morocco. And here we are today wanting to apply on the land of the Sahara, in the Saharan provinces, this national virtue so that this region enjoys the good and prosperity it deserves. I said that when decentralization and regionalism are established, if the resources of the Sahara exceed the needs of this region, some of the surplus will be taken for the other regions. And if the resources and potentials of the Sahara are not enough then the remainder will come from northern Morocco to fill the gap and satisfy the need.

Today we are about to lay down the foundations of regions for Morocco, and to keep our promise and in observance of our commitment, we have proposed that we start with the Saharan provinces. The matter is not easy because visualization must conform to reality, but God willing, before six months have passed, we will have been able to set up this region as a model [for other regions] and, as Fekih Larabas said, we want a successful model. Yes, each of the regions of the noble kingdom has its own particularities, environment, and human relations between its tribes. What is good for the Sahara is not good for the Atlas, and would not be necessarily applicable to the Rif, for instance. But decentralization, directly seizing responsibility and acting directly for the interest of the region are the factors that will be the common denominator for all the regions of the Moroccan kingdom.

And as soon as we begin [implementing] practical ideas, we will ask you to come to us so that we can examine together what has emanated from our hard work and thinking and also take into account your remarks, ideas, and opinions so as to make our work complete—I would not say perfect because only God is perfect. However, work in Morocco is based first of all, and in all fields and at all levels, on the search for perfection and the pursuit of virtue.

So, please convey to my loyal and sincere subjects, the population of the Saharan provinces, our paternal satisfaction and our paternal feelings and our calls to unite their ranks, to be reassured about the future and to follow the path they have chosen for themselves. Thank God your provinces have given us not only Baccalaureat graduates but also academics, competent traders, contractors—it is they who built the port of Laayoune and the airport of Laayoune and who will build other places. This proves that our subjects in the Sahara, even those who rallied in the rest of Morocco recently, have not been prevented by that delay in being at the forefront of the hardworking and serious Moroccans. [passage omitted]

Ex-Polisario Members Give Press Conference

LD1609201692 Rabat MAP in English 1220 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Rabat, Sep. 16 (MAP)—The handful group at the head of the Polisario Front has embarked on a two phase secret strategy consisting essentially in procrastination, maneuvers and kindling of mistrust regarding the UN peace plan, El Khattat Ould Ahmed Ould Yanja and Bashir Ould Abdallah Ould Dkhil said at a press conference held here Tuesday.

Ould Yanja and Ould Dkhil, who returned lately to Morocco defecting the Polisario ranks, were respectively members of the "Referendum Cell" and "the Polisario Coordination Commission with the MINURSO [UN Mission for the Organization of the Referendum in the Sahara]". The two who were accompanied by six other former Polisario officials and Brahim Hakim unveiled the latest Polisario strategy.

The two former Polisario officials explained the strategy pursued by the "intransigents around Mohamed Abdelaziz is to prevent by all possible maneuvers the Sahrawis to freely express themselves according to the modalities set up by the United Nations".

In a second phase and in case international pressure is enough to impose the conduct of the referendum, Mohamed Abdelaziz and his remaining lieutenants will opt for sabotage, aggression and terrorism to spread panic in the camps during registration on electoral lists and ballot casting and set mistrust both toward Moroccan administration authorities and toward the personnel of the United Nations Mission for the Organization of the Referendum in the Sahara (MINURSO).

The defectors called on the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and on international humanitarian aid organizations so that "they themselves deal with and distribute the aid shipments of food, medicines and vehicles destined to the populations of the 'Lahmada' camps", for, they insisted the "assistance is misappropriated, given to troops or traded with Mauritanian private businessmen and other merchants when the aid is meant to alleviate the suffering of the Sahrawis sequestered in these camps".

They stressed the aid is supplied to the camps on the basis of false figures (160,000 refugees) fabricated by the Polisario to get personal benefit specifying that actually and according to the latest statistical figures there are only 35,000 to 40,000

refugees, including Malians, Mauritanians and Algerians, in the camps located close to Tindouf".

On the situation in the camps, all the speakers at the news conference denounced the inquisitorial atmosphere and the crack-down prevailing there noting that "when in a number of countries we speak of the rights of animals, in Lahmada camps there are thousands of children, women and old people living in ordeal".

"Suspicion and mistrust, which prevail in the camps, going deep even among family members, are kindled by Polisario agents and military intelligence creating unease which sooner or later will lead to another upheaval like the one that jarred the camps in 1988", they said.

Asked on the teaching and indoctrination system dispensed to children left in the camps, Ould Dkhil (who also held the office of Director General of Programming and Inspection at the "Education Department") said that children are brought up in the hatred of the other and deprived as of the age of 15 of the right to schooling to be thrust among the mercenaries' troops.

To a question on the source, kind and size of international aid extended to the Polisario, Brahim Hakim specified that the aid is subsiding, for "the Polisario lost all its allies following the changes worldwide". "Algeria, which is its main aid supplier, is now engrossed by a single leit-motiv: Algeria Before All" he said referring to a story run this week by "AL MOUJAHID" daily.

Fadili Salek for his part said that Algeria is concerned today with its own problems. So, help and assistance stopped as happened earlier with those coming from Libya. The same happened with Cuba which helped the "Polisario" in training commandoes, Sahrawi navy and special forces and the nursing of injured Polisario members, he said adding that Sahrawi students sent to Havana by the Polisario as well as the injured could not return from Cuba to the camps lately because neither Cuba nor the Polisario could pay for their travel tickets.

"Cuba is a country in distress and can no longer help a movement in distress", Fadili Salek, who was a founding member of the Polisario, member of the Polisario Political Bureau, secretary general of the Polisario Workers' Union (UTSARIO), military attache at the Polisario representation in Algiers, military attache at the "embassy" of the pseudo-Sadr in Cuba and adviser at the Sadr presidency, underlined.

To a question on the morale of the "Polisario" troops, M. Mohamed Takilah Maa Al Ainine (founding member of Polisario, representative of the front in Libya, first secretary general of the "Interior Ministry", director-general of the camp police, political commissar at the 7th military region), precised that "the Polisario Army numbers 7,000 men, out of whom more than half are injured or suffer from trauma caused by injuries, therefore the morale cannot be very high prompting desertions and sedition".

"All units are convinced that ever since the defense wall built by the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces (FAR) any attack or fighting or incursion are suicidal and this contributes to bringing the morale even lower, due to a notorious shortage of working vehicles, fuel, pneumatics, lubricants and spare parts", he added.

Maa Al Ainine went on to say "this low morale and its direct consequences led to the setting up of military tribunals elected mainly from the gang of Mohamed Abdelaziz, to deter all those who express the will to return to the motherland or voice their discontent.

"The sentences of the trials are expeditious, pronounced by illiterate would-be judges and based on no legal text, he said stating this [words indistinct] were charged with willing to return to Morocco and tribesmen were arrested and brought before military courts. He cited in this respect the rguibat, Oulad Moussa, Ould Daoud, Takna, Oulad Maa Al Ainine...

Asked what he thought of Hakim's statement according to which Hakim will not renounce belonging to the Polisario political [words indistinct] Abdelaziz, he said unveiling information according to which an important movement of people willing to return to Morocco could take place.

M. Ibrahim Hakim then made an urgent appeal to the international press to ask for the liberation of the Moroccan journalist El Bahi Mohamed whose detention, he said, "is unjust and unacceptable to international law at a time when reporters worldwide uphold the free exercise of the profession and lead media campaigns every time a journalist is held as a hostage or prevented from doing his job".

Asked about the repercussions of the situation in Algeria on relations between Algerians and Sahrawis, M. Hmadi Deddah Ould El Ouali, one of the officials in charge of welcoming foreigners visiting the Tindouf camps, said that "the leadership of the Polisario is busy preparing secretly for the possibility of a civil war in Algeria and working out a plan to gather all Bedouin populations in the Algerian deep south and take control of the city of Tindouf".

All the rallied group members said they acted after due ponderation and that they are convinced that the call by HM [His Majesty] the king "the homeland is forgiving and merciful" is having a deep echo in the souls of all the cadres deceived in their early youth by misleading propaganda.

To a question about his integration in Morocco and his companions', M. Brahim Hakim affirmed he refused the words integration and reintegration "we have never left our country culturally. We are Moroccans and fate made it that we lived for some time outside our country and our history.

"Our return coincides with a historic turning point, we are participating in the consolidation of democracy. We are proud to live this period following the massive adoption of

the draft revised constitution which will be marked mainly by the launching of the "regionalization" policy.

The Saharan provinces will be the first ones to profit from it as wished by HM the King Hassan II, glory be upon him, whose speech had a deep effect in the Lahmada camps", concluded M. Brahim Hakim.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Assures UN Official of Juba's Security

EA1609214592 Khartoum SUNA in English 0955 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Sep (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] General 'Umar al-Bashir, Tuesday [15 September] evening met at the guest house the visiting assistant U.N. Secretary-General for humanitarian action, Jan Eliasson.

At the encounter, Gen Bashir has reaffirmed stability of the security situation in Juba and regularity of the air flights to the town, stressing that the Sudan government is working seriously for transporting relief materials to all the war-affected people. The RCC chairman pointed out that the Sudan was able to achieve self-sufficiency in grains production. He also affirmed, at the encounter, Sudan's commitment to the decision achieved by the recent summit of Addis Ababa on relief and humanitarian issues at the area of the Horn of Africa.

The meeting between the RCC chairman and Mr Eliasson was attended by the state minister at the presidency, Dr Ghazi Salah al-Din, the RCC chairman political advisor Yusuf Sa'id and the commissioner of Khartoum Province (Jick) Peter.

Al-Bashir Says Country Will Give, Not Receive

EA1609220092 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Excerpt] The chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, has affirmed that the Sudan will never again be a receiver of relief and offerings, stressing that the Sudan will instead be a helper for all the needy peoples of the world.

Addressing a students' mass rally organized yesterday [15 September] at the green square in Khartoum on the occasion of the Summer Crossing [forces that recaptured Kapoeta and Torit in eastern Equatoria from Sudanese People's Liberation Army rebels] week, Gen. Bashir emphasized that the salvation revolution endeavors to unleash the energies of the Sudanese people so that they will be a source of vigor and power to all the oppressed peoples of the earth. The revolution will proceed in pursuing the method that it has chosen for rebuilding a glorious nation that will never succumb or yell to any force except the almighty, he said. Gen. Bashir pointed out that the Sudanese people are now regarded by the whole world as a nation of message, stressing that the Sudan will soon be an example to be followed by the oppressed countries.

Gen. Bashir told the students that the overall national strategy was launched for the sake of rendering the Sudan a country of dignity and prestige, and a source of pride for any person belonging to it.

He pointed to the hostile campaign being waged against the Sudan, vowing that it will never halt the efforts aimed at rebuilding the nations of message that will restore the glory of Islam. [passage omitted]

Khalifah Said Ready for New Round of Abuja Talks

EA1609172092 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] al-Obeid, 16 Sep (SUNA)—Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA) Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah has affirmed that the Sudan Government is ready to resume the second round of Abuja peace talks with the rebel movement for realisation of a lasting solution to the southern Sudan question.

Khalifah, in a press statement to SUNA, disclosed that the government has informed the Nigerian Government's envoy, who visited the Sudan recently, of [the] Sudan Government's readiness to sit for the second round of Abuja peace talks which will discuss procedural issues related to achievement of peace and halting the blood-shed in the South.

He stated that other basic issues were thoroughly reviewed in the first round of talks in Abuja. The second round of talks, Khalifah said, is anticipated to be in next October [1992].

On the allegation fabricated on [the] human rights situation in the Sudan, Khalifah affirmed that "the Sudan is not needy for issuing a certificate from the western media and those opposing our Islamic orientations regarding protection of human rights," stressing that the human rights in Sudan are now well protected by the adopted shari'ah and holy Koran principles.

He emphasised that the U.S. Congress delegation that visited the Sudan recently had praised Sudan's clean record of human rights. Khalifah added that Sudan's restoration of its seat at the inter-parliamentary union will enable it [to] benefit from the financial privileges assigned for the member states in accordance with [the] Lome conventions.

Group Admits Alliance With Al-Bashir Regime

PM1609153692 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Sep 92 pp 1, 4

['Umar Muhammad al-Hasan report: "Numayri Group Openly Admits Alliance With Al-Bashir Regime"]

[Excerpts] Khartoum—Major Abu-al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, former Sudanese first vice president during former President Ja'far Numayri's rule, has said that supporters of the May revolution led by Numayri in 1969 have decided to announce their support for the new regime on a wide scale. It is the first time one of the two sides has admitted the existence of an alliance believed to have become stronger despite Numayri's opposition to it.

Ibrahim, who was recently elected secretary for the "people's congresses" in Burri district, east of Khartoum, told AL-HAYAH that he visited Cairo and informed Numayri, who has been residing there since he was toppled in 1985, of the decision made by his supporters in the country. He added that the decision to stand behind Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir "is not prompted by the desire to obtain posts and privileges, but, rather, the desire to bolster the homeland's development and progress."

The former vice president described the present regime as identical to the Numayri regime in terms of aims. The present rulers, he said, are "serious." And they have presented serious programs and announced their determination to implement them. He said that he asked Numayri to return to Sudan. "But I told him if you want to return as president, it is too late, and you should not finish your life cooperating with the parties, sectarianism, and rebel elements in the south."

Ibrahim said that former leaders of the Numayri era will hold meetings with leaders of the present regime to define foundations for coordination and cooperation between them. But he did not specify a date for these meetings. Nor did he mention the issues to be discussed in the meetings.

Numayri has on several occasions refused to cooperate with the Sudanese regime unless it announces the abolition of its alliance with the National Islamic Front led by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi.

Government sources said that Khartoum has received reports to the effect that an Arab state hosting the Sudanese opposition parties grouping has set the condition that the opposition should be led by Numayri in return for supporting its plans to topple the present Sudanese Government. But influential leaders of the Sudanese parties have denied these reports. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Tahir 'Abdallah Buyur, chairman of the Islamic Assembly for New Sudan, which belongs to the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, has said that southern Sudan in particular has deep-rooted relations with Egypt. [passage omitted]

Buyur demanded that the Sudanese opposition be helped to finish off the present regime in Sudan and establish a democratic regime that believes in pluralism and human rights. He also said that the conflict taking place in Sudan is not between Islam and Christianity; it is a struggle for the sake of human rights and establishing justice and equality. [passage omitted]

Official Comments on Creation of Free Zone

EA1309182092 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Dr. Ali al-Hajj, chairman of the Public Corporation for Investment, has explained in a press statement that the free zone that is to be established in the Red Sea area includes 'Uthman Diqnah port, Sawakin Town, and the new Port Sudan airport, in addition to a part of the Port Sudan-Khartoum highway which links the port to the airport. His excellency confirmed that the free zone will be completely free in all its transactions, pointing out that steps for its implementation are proceeding well.

Airline Plans To Improve Service, Performance

EA1209202092 Khartoum SUNA in English 1631 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Sep (SUNA)—Sudanair work plan during the first year of the national overall strategy includes renting a third fokker plane, another airbus, and an air cargo plane for boosting the passengers and cargo flights externally and internally. The plan aims at increasing [the] number of the internal flights from Khartoum to the capitals of the states and other major towns, besides utilisation of the Boeing to Dunqulah [northern Sudan], Al Fashir and port Sudan.

The company also plans to improve its services to the passengers and utilisation of computer for booking and issuance of tickets.

Sudanair's work plan includes its endeavor to get approval of the concerned authorities so that the company [may] be able to transmit 50 percent of its foreign currency revenues abroad for meeting the requirements of better performance.

SUNA learned that the company's plan in the first year of the national overall strategy attaches a special consideration to simplification of procedure, intensification of training, improvement of the work environment and discipline, as well as betterment of means of communication, maintenance workshops, and security services. The plan also focuses on concluding the initial steps for transforming Sudanair into a public shareholding company, besides cooperation with the civil aviation authorities with regard to improvement of airports and provision of airplanes' fuel.

Tunisia

Libyan Authorities Restrict Transit Across Border

NC1509143592 Cairo MENA in English 1303 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Tunis, 15 Sep (MENA)—The Libyan authorities have tightened measures on the Tunisian-Libyan borders

since Saturday regulating the transport of electric machines, foodstuffs and persons between the two countries, according to reports reaching here from Ra's Ghadir border check-point.

Eyewitnesses said that the Libyan authorities have taken new measures, making passengers of all nationalities, including Libyans, pay exit and entry fees. The Libyan authorities also ban the exit of foodstuffs and electronic machines from Libya.

"AL-SABAH" newspaper [published in Tunis] quoted an official source as saying that the new Libyan measures have nothing to do with Tunisia.

U.S. Donates $10 Million To Help Privatization

LD1109212692 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Tunisia and the United States signed today an agreement for technical cooperation for developing private enterprise. Noureddine Mejdoub, secretary of state for foreign affairs, and John McCarthy, the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, signed the agreement during a ceremony at the Foreign Ministry this morning.

According to the agreement, the U.S. Administration will grant Tunisia, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, a $10 million donation that will be used to help privatize publicly-owned enterprises, bolster decentralization, and adjust the Tunisian economy. [passage omitted]

Moroccan Bank To Fund Arab International Bank

LD1709081592 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1025 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Tunis, 15 Sep (MAP)—Tunisian Finance Minister Nouri Zorgati yesterday received at his office a delegation from the Moroccan Wafa Bank led by Mr. Mohamed Ali Kettani, chairman of the Moroccan bank.

The meeting, which was attended by Mr. Mokhtar Fekhakh, chairman and director general of the Arab International Bank of Tunisia, discussed existing banking cooperation between Tunisia and Morocco; the scope of developing the cooperation so it can become a beneficial tool in consolidating relations; and intensifying exchanges between the two countries in order to continue contributing to support the current efforts that are aimed at building the Arab Maghreb.

In this context, it was decided that the Moroccan Wafa Bank is to contribute 6 percent of the capital of the Arab International Bank of Tunisia in accordance with an agreement signed yesterday between Mokhtar Fekhakh and Kettani.

Iraqi Trade Minister Arrives for Economic Meeting

JN1309182692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1719 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] Tunis, 13 Sep (INA)—Iraqi Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih arrived here this evening on a five-day visit to Tunisia.

Salih will head Iraq's delegation to meetings of the 51st session of the Arab Economic and Social Council, due to convene on Wednesday.

Over two days, the Council will discuss means of restabilizing national currencies; easing restrictions imposed on the private sector; improving economic performance to increase investment opportunities; and promoting inter-Arab trade.

Committee Discusses Modifying Electoral System

LD1109214192 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The Higher Committee for the National Charter met this evening at the government office at the Casbah under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Hamed Karoui. [passage omitted]

The meeting was devoted to continuing the study of methods to develop the voting system of the elections law. In the speech he gave on the occasion, the prime minister praised the deep interest shown by the president in the proceedings of the Higher Committee for the National Charter, and his eagerness to be enlightened by the views and ideas of the various sections of the political and intellectual groups represented in it, which would assist in further enforcement of the democratic structure and establish the features of the civilized society brought about by the 7 November transformation. [passage omitted]

The prime minister pointed out that looking into the development of the voting system for the legislative elections comes as a result of the president's concern for establishing pluralism in the constitutional institutions, especially the parliament, so that political parties can be represented in it, according to their influence and popular bases. [passage omitted]

Former Interior Minister Takes Refuge in Jordan

JN1609165992 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 15 Sep 92 p 1

[Text] Vienna—KUNA—The information bureau of the opposition Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] said yesterday that Sa'dun Shakir, former Iraqi interior minister and the head of Iraqi intelligence, fled to Jordan after the implementation of the no-fly zone south of the 32d parallel in Iraq.

Citing the former Jordanian interior minister Sulayman 'Arar, who was visiting the Austrian capital Vienna last week, the SAIRI information bureau said that Shakir brought his family with him to Jordan where he arrived under the pretext of seeking medical treatment but later refused to return to Iraq.

The bureau said in a statement issued yesterday that the former Jordanian minister, 'Arar, who is an intimate friend of Shakir, said that the latter is currently living in fear of the Iraqi regime's retaliation because of his stay in Jordan with his family and his refusal to return home. [In a related report, London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI reports on 15 Sep that the official's refusal to return to Baghdad comes "amid predictions that several more of the regime's former chief officials are thinking of leaving Iraq and abandoning Saddam."]

Regime Reportedly Moves Missiles Into al-Basrah

PM1609164692 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 13 Sep 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Najah Muhammad 'Ali: "Baghdad Regime Sets Up Its Missiles in al-Basrah"]

[Excerpts] Tehran, Damascus, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—The Iraqi regime's forces have recently set up surface-to-surface missile batteries in the teaching hospital area in al-Basrah in preparation for using them to suppress any potential uprising, especially in al-'Amarah and al-Nasiriyah. This falls within the framework of the operations launched by the regime against the people in the south.

Meanwhile, 25 Iraqi nationalist organizations have started their meeting in Damascus within the framework of the Iraqi national bureau to organize their ranks and define their positions on the present stage and to coordinate positions to topple Saddam Husayn's regime. This is in addition to the possibility of announcing an Iraqi government in exile whose task would be to contact and coordinate with international circles opposed to the Iraqi regime, especially neighboring states. [passage omitted]

With regard to the situation in southern Iraq, the Islamic Revolution's Mujahidin organization operating inside Iraq told SAWT AL-KUWAYT yesterday that the Iraqi regime started to act nervously after it ascertained that the United States was starting to implement the exclusion zone plan on land after its implementation in the air. The leaflets dropped by U.S. aircraft over the southern areas of Iraq, calling on Saddam Husayn's forces to withdraw from them, had the effect of increasing tension among the rulers of Baghdad, especially as these U.S. moves have facilitated armed Iraqi opposition moves against the regime's symbols and institutions.

In view of this situation and according to reliable sources, the regime has started to reorganize some of its forces in the area of al-Basrah in the following manner:

1—Deploying three artillery battalions east of al-Basrah in the areas of al-Tannumah, al-Zurayji, and Abu Jallab.

2—Deploying a tank battalion in al-Shalamjah area, southeast of al-Basrah.

3—Setting up single- and double-barreled machine guns [rashashat] in all villages and areas situated on the al-Basrah—al-Qurnah road, which is 75 km long. They have also been set up on the road between Talhah and al-Karamah bridge in al-Madinah, which belongs to al-Basrah Governorate, and on the northern al-Madinah-al-Rumaylah road.

The sources that supplied SAWT AL-KUWAYT with this information say that the regime expects the entry of forces from the opposition Iraqi "Badr" corps stationed on Iranian territory following reports that numbers of Iraqi military personnel have entered Iraqi territory from other adjacent areas.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT has received detailed information that the regime's intelligence organs blew up the textile factory situated in al-Nasiriyah Governorate, destroying it completely. The incident occurred on 3 September at 0900 hrs. Sources of the Islamic Revolution's Mujahidin organization say that the incident resulted in the deaths of nearly 2,000 workers. The explosion occurred two days after reports that large numbers of armed troops had joined the people's ranks and that the city had fallen, but the regime was able to seize it again after opposition forces withdrew. [passage omitted]

Government Reportedly Forcing Out Shiites, Kurds

Citizens 'Kidnapped' in South

LD1609182592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] The Iraqi regime forces have kidnapped a large number of inhabitants of the al-Abyadh region, situated in southern Iraq, during the past few days. According to the reports we have received, the Iraqi regime forces severely shelled the al-Abyadh region, situated around al-Basrah, during the past few days, and then arrived in the region and set fire to houses of its inhabitants.

According to the same reports, after destroying residential homes, the Iraqi regime forces abducted the inhabitants of that region and took them away. According to the report of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic

Revolution of Iraq, allied aircraft were conducting reconnaissance flights over the region throughout the entire duration of those activities.

'Evacuation Campaign' in East

NC1609203692 Al-Sulaymaniyah Iraq Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] The regime has once again begun a campaign to evacuate Kurdish families living in the eastern border areas of Iraq. According to our sources, the evacuation campaign includes hundreds of Kurdish families. The regime confiscated their movable and immovable property and moved them to the central region, placing them in small housing complexes.

The same sources report that the regime arrested the sons of the evacuated families, detaining over 1,000 youth. Nothing is known about their destiny so far.

According to well-informed sources, the regime fears renewed Kurdish action in this area, which is still under its control. The regime is afraid that the inhabitants will be encouraged by the regime's weakened position in Kurdistan and the south and is trying to keep the situation under control. The regime has been employing this notorious method against the Iraqi people since 1970.

Kurdish Radio Reports Explosion at Zakho Hotel

JN1609202292 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1745 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] On the night of 15-16 September, an explosion rocked the Ashur Hotel in the city of Zakho resulting in material losses. No loss of life was reported.

On this occasion, we call on the competent security departments and the masses to be more alert and to watch moves by suspect elements, especially places where cars are parked in order to rob the hirelings and murderers of the opportunities they seek.

Amnesty Granted to Army Deserters in al-Ta'mim

JN1709105192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1033 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered a general and absolute amnesty to Army deserters in al-Ta'mim Governorate. This was announced today by Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, during a major mass rally held in Karkuk.

He said: Leader President Saddam Husayn's order comes to honor the tribes, prominent figures, and citizens of the al-Ta'mim Governorate and to allow those covered by that decision the opportunity to participate in the march of jihad and construction and to defend the sovereignty of great Iraq and the unity of its people.

Defense Minister Staff Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid added that the amnesty is valid for two weeks. He asked those covered by the amnesty to report to any of the training centers in the governorate and to remain there and not to return to their former military units.

Saddam on Rebuilding of Republican Guards Facilities

JN1609190492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1726 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] [no dateline as received]—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has commended the workers of the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction and the al-Faw State Enterprise. His excellency said there is no such thing as impossible and that God is great.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's remarks were made in reaction to the staff of the ministry and the enterprise completing some of the buildings of the Republican Guards in record time and at an exceptionally low cost.

INA has learned that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn ordered the reconstruction of the the buildings of the heroic first and second regiments of the Republican Guards. These were among the proud edifices hit by aggressors.

An estimated 62 percent of the first regiment building was damaged, while damage to the second regiment building was estimated at 38 percent.

Iran's Reaction to Arab League on Abu Musa Viewed

JN1709101892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said the Iranian regime's attack against the recent Arab League Council's resolutions, regarding protection of Arab rights in Abu Musa Island is a new confirmation of the ceaseless Iranian designs against the Arab homeland.

In an article published here today under the headline "Abu Musa and Exposing Stands," the paper says the Iranian regime's stands refute the allegations which it brags about; namely, that its policy is different from the policy of the Shah, who was notorious for his aggressiveness and wild desire to expand at the expense of the Arab land and people.

The paper adds that the statement made by the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, in which he attacked the Arab League resolutions, emphatically confirms that the Iranian regime, which claims to be an Islamic one, is closely following the steps of the Shah, who was described by the Tehran rulers, in an attempt to cover themselves, as an agent to the arch Satan. The paper points out that these rulers are confirming through their action and behavior that they themselves are also agents of this arch Satan.

AL-THAWRAH says these rulers are making another foolish mistake by persisting with their designs, which are similar to the Shah's, in Abu Musa and in any other part of the Arab lands, and like their designs now against Iraq.

The paper asserts that Tehran's attitude and the U.S. silence over these unjust and flagrant designs reveal the hostile intentions harbored by both Tehran and Washington against the Arab nation and expose the U.S. alliance with "rulers" from the Arab region and the allegations on protecting the Gulf region.

'Aziz Receives Russian 'National Forces' Group

JN1609141392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received a delegation from the Russian national forces, led by Mrs. Saji Omlatova [name as received].

During the meeting, they discussed the historical relations between the Iraqi and Russian peoples, as well as other nations of the former Soviet Union.

Mrs. Saji expressed solidarity with the Iraqi people in their opposition to the evil conspiracy. She said: Our visit to Iraq at this time in particular is meant to say that Iraq is not alone. Iraq's friends among the sons of the Russian people, as well as many world nations, stand by its side.

Ramadan Meets With Algerian 'Democracy' Group

JN1609170992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, today received Khaled Ibn-Isma'il [name as received], secretary general of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, and the delegation accompanying him.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asserted the Arab masses' ability, through their solidarity and coalescence, to weaken and thwart the conspiracies being implemented by imperialist and Zionist forces against Iraq and the Arab nation.

He added that the Arab masses, which believe in Arab causes, represent a great power in the face of covetous aggressors and their subservient, traitorous agents.

The vice president reviewed the march of reconstruction and speedy activity being carried out by Iraqi companies to accomplish giant projects, noting that this has upset the enemy. He affirmed that the will of the sons of Iraq, which stems from the will of their leader and symbol, leader President Saddam Husayn, has proven that it is unshakable and indomitable.

The vice president emphasized that Iraq's future will be bright, developed, and advanced, thanks to the solidarity of its sons and their creativity and efforts, and will be a concrete reply to all forms of plotting and aggression, which began to recede, while the banners of Iraqi victory are fluttering high.

The members of the Algerian delegation affirmed that the aggression against Iraq is an aggression against the Arab nation because Iraq has become an Arab strike force and an honest defender of the Arabs' rights and destiny and bright future for progress and development, so that the Arab nation will remain strong and impregnable in the face of aggressors.

The delegation also praised the march of reconstruction which confirmed the Iraqis' strength and determination to challenge and overcome difficult circumstances.

Paper Carries Obituary of Mauritanian Ambassador

JN1609164592 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Sep 92 p 2

[Obituary entitled: "To God's Mercy: Each Soul Shall Have a Taste of Death"]

[Text] Ambassador to Mauritania Thabit Nu'man al-'Ani has passed away in a regrettable incident. He was the father of Iyad, a student at the Faculty of Medicine; Muhammad, a student at the Faculty of Education; and Ahmad, a student at the Faculty of Medicine. He was also the father of the wife of Eng. Nabil Khalil al-'Ani and the brother-in-law of Khalil al-'Ani and Dr. Fawzi al-'Ani. On Tuesday, 15 September 1992, the funeral procession will set off from his home situated in al-Qadisiyah neighborhood, Mahallat 604, Alley 20, House No. 14. The Al-Fatihah Sura will be recited for the rest of his chaste soul in the al-Shawwaf Mosque in al-Yarmuk beginning Tuesday, 15 September 1992 from 1700 to 2000 and continuing for three days. From God we come and unto Him we return.

Rabin Denies Rumor of Goodwill Gesture to Syria

TA1709055192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has cautioned Syria to ignore rumors of an impending Israeli goodwill gesture. Speaking at the airport upon his return from Germany, Rabin also denied reports about third-party mediators between Israel and Syria and said all contacts between the two countries are being conducted at the talks in Washington. Le'a Zinder reports.

[Begin recording] [Zinder] In an apparent attempt to curb the current flood of media speculation about Israel's readiness for territorial compromise on the Golan Heights, Prime Minister Rabin said last night it was important the Syrians realize negotiations were taking place only between the two delegations, with some input from the United States, but they should ignore all other rumors. He regretted the rumors in the media about so-called goodwill gestures Israel would make. Rabin called these rumors untrue and damaging, and stressed there will be no discussions over territorial issues until the Syrians are ready to make real peace that is not linked to progress in talks with any other Arab delegation. Also, said Rabin, none of the so-called mediators mentioned in the media are relevant or authorized to speak in Israel's name. Rabin denied he was referring to reported mediation efforts by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. Prime Minister Rabin explained what agreements he felt could be achieved in the next six to 12 months.

[Rabin] First, when I say that agreements will be concluded with the Palestinians, it's not a peace treaty. It's an interim agreement for transitional period or, as it is called now, instead of autonomy: ISGA, Interim Self-Government Arrangements. With Syria it will be peace. With Jordan it will be peace, but I don't believe that the Jordanians will be ready to make peace with Israel before the Israeli-Palestinian problem will be solved. With Lebanon, there is no question of territories, but before the Syrians will agree to anything, I doubt if Lebanon will be ready to do it.

[Zinder] On the talks with the Palestinians, Rabin stressed the negotiations are only over interim self-governing arrangements and not—he repeated—not over territory. [end recording]

Answers Questions on Peace Talks

TA1609203592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1912 GMT 16 Sep 92

[News conference with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at Ben-Gurion Airport, on his return from a three-day trip to Germany—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Rabin] ...that exist today in Germany. I believe that my meetings with the chancellor, the foreign and defense ministers, the German Socialist Party leadership, the Social Democratic Party, have formed a basis that will lead to results in fields that are relevant to Israel in the not distant future. If you have questions on any matter, I will try to answer them.

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Sheli Yehimovich] With your permission, sir, I would like to discuss the Washington talks. Mr. Prime Minister, you have reiterated on numerous occasions that before we discussed the details of the territorial issue with the Syrians, they would have to prove two things: their readiness to establish a full peace and the stability of such a peace. In light of today's talks, are the Syrians in any way close to meeting our conditions?

[Rabin] As I said before, Israel will not enter into any territorial discussion—regardless of what is leaked and by whom—and that is what the Israeli delegation is doing and will continue to do in its contacts with the Syrians as long as Syria does not clarify that it intends to establish full peace with open borders, diplomatic relations, embassies, and normalization between the two countries. Second, any agreement with Syria obviously must stand on its own two feet, without being conditioned on whether or not progress is made with the other Arab delegations. I would like to make it clear, especially to the Syrians, that the dialogue will be conducted in one channel only—between the Syrian and Israeli delegations—and that mediators of any sort are irrelevant to the negotiations. The dialogue is only between the Syrian and Israeli delegations in Washington, and occasionally through the United States. All the other addresses that appear in the media are irrelevant and unauthorized to speak on behalf of Israel.

[Yehimovich] This evening, activists from right-wing parties demonstrated at road junctions, Gush Emunim has been resurrected, the Golan settlers are seething. Do you, Mr. Prime Minister, have any message that can calm all these people?

[Rabin] The government has a clear policy. I am sorry that the media constantly publish reports that in my opinion harm the negotiations, about Israel's ostensible readiness to drive an easy bargain. This has no—absolutely no—basis, either in my positions or in those of the various delegations. We have clarified unequivocally that we are not entering any territorial discussion at this stage, before Syria responds to the two questions I presented. As for the negotiations with the Palestinians in the territories, we are talking about an interim accord for a transitional period without—and I stress without—any territorial concessions whatsoever at this stage of the process.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, did your remarks about irrelevant mediators refer to the reports about French involvement in the dialogue between Damascus and Jerusalem?

[Rabin] I do not know anything about that or any other mission. I am referring exactly to what I said. The dialogue with Syria is between the Israeli and Syrian delegations. All the rest is hogwash.

Shamir Criticizes 'Concessions' at Peace Talks

TA1609173292 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Interview with Likud Knesset Member Yitzhaq Shamir by Rafi Reshef in the studio—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Reshef] Are you worried about the progress being made in the bilateral talks in Washington?

[Shamir] I am very worried, very worried. I think the Israeli people have been unnecessarily and unjustifiably thrown into a state of anxiety. After all, until the last elections we were in an excellent position; we were in an optimal political situation. Countries were standing in line to resume relations with us; we were in the midst of peace negotiations and nobody had any complaints about them. We would have conducted those negotiations without making painful concessions which might endanger our existence and security. I do not know what has possessed our people and why they started this whole business of concessions that are totally unnecessary.

[Reshef] If I understand you correctly, you think that Yitzhaq Rabin is capable of making what you perceive as far-reaching concessions on the Golan Heights for the sake of true peace.

[Shamir] He says as much, I do not know whether this would be for the sake of true peace. Who or what is forcing us to give up the Golan Heights, a most vital area to Israel's security?

[Reshef] Do you still adhere to the position of not giving up even one inch of land on the Golan Heights?

[Shamir] No question about it. What does not even one inch of land mean? How big is our country altogether? How many inches of land are there in our tiny country?

[Reshef] As far as you are concerned, is al-Asad the same al-Asad? Do you not discern any differences or even nuances?

[Shamir] Al-Asad is prepared to trick us just so as to get back the Golan Heights. He may say a few nice words, get back the Golan Heights, and then forget what he said—just as was the case with Mubarak and with others.

[Reshef] What must al-Asad do for you to say that the man has changed?

[Shamir] Nothing. We must negotiate with them, and the outcome of these negotiations should favor us, they should benefit Israel. And, we have the chances...[Shamir changes thought] we had all the chances to do that.

[Reshef] Are you surprised by the pace of the talks?

[Shamir] I am totally surprised by the intention to raise the expectations of the opposite side in exchange for nothing; they have not given anything in return.

[Reshef] Has anybody bothered to brief you on what is going on there?

[Shamir] There is no need to bother, it is plain for everybody to see.

[Reshef] You are the head of the opposition, nevertheless.

[Shamir] I have not been briefed, but....

[Reshef, interrupting] Do you find this in poor taste?

[Shamir] I have no demands. I am quite informed about what has been happening to date, that I can draw my own conclusions.

[Reshef] If you know more or less what I know, the feeling is that there is more to it than meets the eye. Roland Dumas met with Shim'on Peres and then went on to confer with al-Asad who, in turn, proceeded to meet Mubarak. Things are apparently afoot.

[Shamir] I do not know all the details. I would not rely on Dumas, he is not one of our best friends. I do not think our salvation will come from al-Asad's smile.

[Reshef] Mr. Shamir, as head of the opposition, how should the struggle be conducted at present?

[Shamir] The struggle must be conducted in such a way as to stop the campaign of dangerous concessions. These are totally unnecessary; they will not bring us peace, they will bring upon Israel dangers whose severity cannot be assessed at present.

[Reshef] What should be done in practice?

[Shamir] This campaign must be stopped, we should go into....

[Reshef, interrupting] How should the opposition fight it? Should it hold mass demonstrations, stage hunger strikes?

[Shamir] Demonstrations are all right. They are permitted by the law, which we all obey. We must do the maximum that the law permits us.

[Reshef] I hope this question is not too personal. Do you still have the strength to head such a struggle?

[Shamir] I am not saying that I should head the struggle. [passage omitted]

Envoy Denies Russia Selling Nuclear Arms to Arabs

TA1609183992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Aleksandr Bovin, Russia's ambassador to Israel, says that there is no chance that his country has sold or will sell any kind of nuclear weapon to the Arab countries or other countries in the world. He visited Beersheba today, and our correspondent Nisim Qeynan met him there.

[Begin recording] [Qeynan] Russia's position on the Middle East peace negotiations is identical to that of the United States, Ambassador Bovin stated. According to him, Russia's role in the negotiating process is to create the preliminary conditions for negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries but not to conduct them in their place.

[Bovin in Russian, followed by Hebrew translation] We accept any version that satisfies Israel and Syria, Israel and Jordan, or Israel and Lebanon. However, we cannot conduct the negotiations for you.

[Qeynan] As for the nuclear weapons in the CIS and in Russia, the Russian ambassador said there is no chance of nuclear warheads having been sold or being sold in the future to any country because all the nuclear weapons in the CIS are still under Moscow's full and exclusive control. The nuclear warheads have serial numbers, and the stockpiles are occasionally checked and counted meticulously. Bovin made these remarks at a news conference in Beersheba, where he was the municipality's guest of honor. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1630 GMT on 16 September reports that Bovin added that "the quantities of Soviet weapons currently reaching the Middle East are marginal and do not alter the balance of power in the region. He went on to say that Russia sells arms to the Arab countries for money, and not in exchange for political support from the Arabs."]

Chinese Foreign Minister Meets Peres, Others

PRC To Boycott UN Arms Talks

TA1609115692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has confirmed that his country will boycott arms control talks to protest the U.S. decision to sell F-16's to Taiwan. The Middle East peace process was a central theme of the meeting this morning between the Chinese foreign minister and his Israeli counterpart, Shim'on Peres, in Jerusalem. Afterwards, Peres told reporters that the issue of Chinese arms sales to the Middle East was also raised. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Perhaps the biggest story coming out of the Chinese foreign minister's visit here so far does not involve Israel. It is the growing confrontation between China and the United States. Foreign Minister Qian Qichen confirmed this morning that China will boycott an American-initiated meeting of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council that is aimed at controlling arms sales around the world. The Chinese move follows U.S. President George Bush's announced intention to sell F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan. The Chinese foreign minister spoke through an interpreter:

[Interpreter] The U.S. decision to sell F-16 jet fighters to Taiwan violated agreements between that country and China. In arms control, good faith is first and foremost; it is extremely important. Without good faith, there would hardly be any arms control. Therefore, under the present circumstances, China finds (itself) difficult to take part in the negotiations on the arms control by the permanent five of the UN Security Council. And, that is the intention we have expressed as to when China can take part in those negotiations. It is a matter open for discussion.

[Ze'ev] Chinese arms sales to the Middle East was an issue raised by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in this morning's discussion. Afterwards, Peres said his Chinese counterpart assured him that China would do nothing that could complicate the situation in this region. Foreign Minister Qian said his country welcomes what he called the flexible policies and approach adopted by the new Israeli Government in the peace process, and that Beijing hopes the government here will make still greater efforts. [end recording]

[A related report by Gil Litman on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 16 September adds that the Qian-Peres meeting also addressed "economic ties between the superpower from the east and Israel, with a stress on three fields: health, science, and agriculture." Minister Peres is quoted as saying that relations with China "have made headway. There were almost no differences of opinion between us."]

No Reactor Sales to Iran, Algeria

TA1609162692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] The Chinese foreign minister, who is currently visiting Israel, promised Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that his country would not sell nuclear reactors to Iran or Algeria, nor would it do anything that could complicate the situation in the Middle East. Foreign Minister Peres briefed his guest on the developments in the peace process. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen met in 1988 at the UN General Assembly. But today everything seems different. Israel and the PRC maintain full diplomatic relations. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem is decorated with red flags, and the two foreign ministers are already planning how to expand cooperation between the two countries. The Middle East political process figured prominently in this morning's meeting between the two foreign ministers. Qian Qichen welcomed the Israeli Government's new policy to promote the peace process and expressed the belief that now there was a chance to make significant progress toward peace.

[Qian Qichen speaks in Chinese]

[Gutman] From a rough translation of the above remarks it appears that the Chinese minister said that all parties to the conflict and the international community must now make a joint effort to move forward in the peace process. Qian Qichen noted that the peace talks require determination and patience. But other issues also featured on the agenda, such as the sale of Chinese nuclear reactors to Iran and Algeria. Foreign Minister Peres was much reassured by the Chinese minister's statements.

[Peres] Addressing this matter, the Chinese foreign minister said that they would not do anything that could complicate the situation in the Middle East.

[Gutman] The Chinese visitor's agenda also includes a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, a meeting with the Israeli president, and a meeting with Palestinian representatives led by Faysal al-Husayni. Tomorrow, Qian will meet with Prime Minister Rabin and with Knesset Members Shamir and Levi. [end recording]

Denies Military Cooperation Rumors

TA1609182892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen held a news conference in Jerusalem a short time ago. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez, who attended it, says it was rather an odd event.

[Begin recording] [Remez] It was not exactly a news conference as we know it. The visiting minister would only answer five questions, which were submitted to him in writing about two weeks ago. That is why no exciting disclosures were expected from the outset, but he made one nevertheless: He denied that there had been any kind of military cooperation between Israel and the PRC prior to the establishment of diplomatic relations, as insistently reported in the foreign press. [passage omitted]

Cooperation between industrial plants in both countries is not out of the question today, the Chinese minister said, but there is no question of transferring the technology of others to China or of China to others. This remark apparently came in response to the U.S. arguments that Israel had sold China the secrets of the Patriot missile.

The minister reiterated China's protest over the sale of U.S. F-16's to Taiwan. According to Qian, Taiwan is part of China. Consequently, the sale is interference in China's internal affairs. Nevertheless, he emphasized that China's boycott of the talks the five permanent Security Council members are holding on curbing arms deliveries to the Middle East does not apply to the multilateral talks in Moscow. Although we play an active role in the talks on arms control there, the minister stressed, one should not expect more than an expression of views before something is attained in the bilateral talks.

China is a minor arms supplier to the Middle East, the visiting minister emphasized in yet another dig at the Americans, who are the largest suppliers. As for the nuclear reactors that China is selling Iran, Qian said: After all, Iran has signed the international treaties that compel it to use the reactors for peaceful purposes only. [end recording]

Confers With Palestinians

TA1609190092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen conferred in East Jerusalem today with eight leading Palestinians in the territories, headed by Faysal al-Husayni. Our correspondent, Moti Amir, reports:

[Amir] The Chinese foreign minister was greeted by Palestinian delegates who represent most factions in the territories. They included Faysal al-Husayni; Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, who is identified with the Popular Front; and Dr. Mustafa al- Barghuthi, who is identified with the Communist faction. At the beginning of the meeting, the Chinese foreign minister inquired about al-Husayni's trips in the last few weeks.

Al-Husayni told him: I have just come back today. I was in the Netherlands, Tunis, and later in Cairo. At the end of the meeting al-Husayni said that he and his colleagues mainly listened to the Chinese foreign minister, who had conferred earlier today with Foreign Minister Peres.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] We did not meet to ask him anything, but to hear from him about his audience with the Israeli foreign minister and about China's future policy vis-a-vis the Middle East. This was the first visit by a Chinese foreign minister to East Jerusalem, which we consider the capital of the state of Palestine, a position we know is shared by China. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Invites Leaders To Visit China

TA1709111292 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Sep 92 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Yoram Levi]

[Excerpts] PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has invited Foreign Minister Peres, as well as President Hayim Herzog and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, with whom he will meet today, to visit China in the near future.

An invitation was also extended to Transportation Minister Yisra'el Qeysar in the course of a discussion between Peres and Qian on an aviation agreement between the two countries. A Foreign Ministry statement issued after the meeting said that Qian responded positively to the idea of an aviation agreement and that he added that the Israeli transportation minister is always a welcome guest in his country. [passage omitted]

President Herzog has accepted the official invitation extended to him by the Chinese minister. Herzog reciprocated by inviting his Chinese counterpart to visit Israel.

Firm Suspected of Smuggling Spare Parts to Iran

TA1609135592

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 16 September carries a report by defense correspondent Aluf Ben on page A5 stating that "yesterday the Defense Ministry began checking the export licenses for IDF [Israel Defense Forces] surplus engines and APC [armored personnel carrier] spare parts, which had been given to IVS, a Netanya company." The company, owned by Eli Kohen, is suspected by Portuguese customs authorities of "trying to smuggle engines and transmission systems for M-113 (Zelda) APC's to Iran." The wares, stored in several containers, were seized by the Portuguese authorities three weeks ago, "just as they were about to be put on board a ship bounded for Bandar-e 'Abbas in Iran." The report adds that Kohen is abroad, "and it has been learned from his family that he is expected in Israel at the end of this week."

According to the report, "about two months ago, Kohen purchased 50 old APC engines no longer used by the IDF from the Defense Ministry's Defense Sales department, paying $10,500 for each. Security sources said yesterday that Kohen had asserted he was involved in a deal for the upgrading of hundreds of old APC's for a foreign army. The deal purportedly included the replacement of gasoline engines with diesel engines and a renovation of the APC's transmission and brake systems. The Portuguese authorities claim that a South Korean company was the middleman between the Israelis and Iran, and that it provided a cover for the entire deal. The details of the affair were first published last weekend in Lisbon weekly O INDEPENDENTE. The Lisbon publication reports that "the containers held 120 engines, 120 transmission systems, and 120 brake system units for APC's." HA'ARETZ quotes the O INDEPENDENTE on details of the investigation conducted into the affair by the Portuguese authorities.

Also reporting on the affair, Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 16 September, in a page 5 report by Alex Fishman, states: "The Defense Ministry is waiting for IVS owner Eli Kohen to return to Israel, in order to investigate the capture of equipment shipped to Iran. Defense establishment sources stressed that the IVS company has received no approval to deal with Iran."

More on Investigation

TA1709140492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Sep 92 p A5

[Report by defense correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] The Defense Ministry granted licenses to the Netanya-based IVS company to export APC [armored personnel carrier] engines and spare parts to the army of a foreign country which maintains diplomatic relations with Israel. The licenses mention the destination of the shipments as the capital of the aforementioned foreign country. Nevertheless, it is still unclear whether the company had a license from the U.S. authorities to export the U.S.-made equipment. [passage omitted]

Three weeks ago, IVS director Eli Kohen applied for a license to buy another 30 APC engines from Israeli Army surpluses. Following a Portuguese magazine's report of the suspicions against him, the Defense Ministry decided to withhold the applications until it received clarifications from Kohen, who was abroad.

Kohen flew to Lisbon in a bid to persuade the local authorities to release the equipment, which had been confiscated by virtue of a law banning exports of military equipment from Portugal without a license. According to Israeli security sources, Kohen claims the equipment in question is not military because the engines can also be used in trucks and boats. He denies that he sold the equipment to Iran.

Eli Kohen, the owner and director of IVS, worked out the deal with the Hayata [name as published] company 18 months ago. Hayata's Korean owner resides in Vienna and introduces himself as a former general in the South Korean Army.

The deal, which security sources estimate at $2.5 million, included hundreds of engines and transmission and brake systems for M-113 type APC's. There were 120 such systems in the containers confiscated in Lisbon.

According to the security sources, Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri gave permission to Kohen to hold contacts with the Korean company on the sale of the equipment to a foreign army. The Korean firm presented the Israelis with a certificate stating that the end user of the equipment will be a foreign army which wants to upgrade its APC's, among other things, by replacing their gasoline engines with diesel ones. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Comments on Peace, Palestinian Police

TA1609171292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni admitted meeting 'Arafat and said that the fact that he was not searched this morning at the Allenby Bridge may indicate a change of policy in Israel. Al-Husayni asserted that the peace process was not moving fast enough. Al-Husayni, together with a group of Palestinians, is currently meeting the Chinese foreign minister. Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports.

[Begin recording] [Segal] The meeting with the Chinese foreign minister commenced a short while ago. The Chinese foreign minister is meeting with a group of Palestinians, headed by Faysal al-Husayni, here at the American Colony Hotel in East Jerusalem. There are no great expectations from this meeting, which is mainly a courtesy call devoted to economic coordination. On his way here, the Chinese

foreign minister drove through Sultan al-Sulayman Street in East Jerusalem. After his convoy passed by, a tire was set on fire but no one was hurt.

Faysal al-Husayni returned from Jordan this morning after several weeks of accompanying PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to various countries. He admitted meeting 'Arafat and said that the fact that he was not searched this morning on the Allenby Bridge may indicate a change in Israeli policy. Al-Husayni, however, said that not enough has been done in the peace process.

[Al-Husayni] Regrettably, not enough has been done; however, we hope that the change in the Israeli Government will have an effect in future. As yet, however, we have not discerned it.

[Segal] Al-Husayni commented on the East Jerusalem media reports about the Palestinian police force. He said that contrary to the reports, PLO Chairman 'Arafat did not rule out the police force.

[Al-Husayni, in English] I do not believe that he is against the idea of creating a police force. There is no state without a police force, but maybe he was talking about who will take the responsibility from the Israelis. Is it the Palestinians directly, or the Palestinians through other kind of forces.

[Segal translates above remarks and continues] Faruq Amin, who is designated to be appointed the Palestinian police commissioner, also joined the meeting. Amin, a resident of Bethlehem, who served with the Israeli police, refused to be interviewed and said there was nothing new to add on the matter. [end recording]

King Husayn Meets Foreign Personalities in London

Meets Lebanese Leader

JN1609203592 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at his residence in London this evening His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, head of the Higher Shiite Council in Lebanon, who congratulated his majesty on the success of the surgery which his majesty underwent.

The meeting was attended by Lebanese Ambassador in London Mahmud Hammud and Jordanian Ambassador in London Fu'ad Ayyub.

Receives Kurdish Leader

JN1609201792 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] An Iraqi opposition source in London has said that King Husayn met with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, in the British capital on Monday.

Visits Kho'i Foundation

JN1609161692 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn visited the Kho'i Foundation in London yesterday evening where he met with His Eminence Sheykh 'Abdol Majid Kho'i, son of the late Imam Abolqasem Kho'i and a number of the foundation's members.

His majesty offered his condolences on the death of Imam Kho'i and described him as a prominent Arab Islamic figure. His majesty thanked His Eminence 'Abdol Majid Kho'i and members of the foundation for their continuous inquiry about his health and their good wishes after the successful surgery he underwent.

His Eminence Kho'i hailed His Majesty King Husayn's stances and his continuous concern for the interests of the Islamic and Arab nations.

The meeting was attended by the Jordanian ambassador in London.

Information Minister on Secret Group, Peace Talks

PM1609165692 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 Sep 92 p4

[Interview with Jordanian Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif by Mahmud Ma'ruf in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sharif] The Jordanian Government has so far made no comment on the case of Deputies Ya'qub Qirrish and Layth Shubaylat because that case is in the hands of the judiciary. In a democracy, the executive, legislative, and judicial authorities are completely separate from one another. The government has nothing whatsoever to do with this matter. The authorities concerned with the issue are the security authorities, the judicial authorities, and parliament. We have complete faith in the judiciary, which is not subject to government guidance or pressure. I wish to emphasize here that the trial will be public and nothing will be concealed or blacked out. The evidence will be presented, the witnesses will testify, and the defense will submit its argument.

Personally, I hope the two defendants will be found innocent. They are my friends. I know them and wish them all the best, but the law is above everyone, including ministers and deputies. It has been claimed that the file was opened because the issue of files of former government officials was raised and because some people feared the continuation of democratic openness. As I said earlier, the law and the judiciary rule supreme. If we talk about a rule-of-law state, nobody should be annoyed when the law is enforced, because its application reinforces democracy.

There is no doubt that Jordan's democracy upsets some people at home and abroad. There are states around us that do not like our course. Attempts to obstruct it would not surprise me, but our democracy will continue. The people and the leadership insist on it and insist on developing it further.

[Ma'ruf] Is Iran one of these states, as claimed?

[Al-Sharif] I cannot go into this matter before the bill of indictment is issued. Much has been said but it would not be wise to discuss this matter now. We have, however, established that a certain side supplied funds and arms.

[Ma'ruf] How do you view the latest round of negotiations in Washington?

[Al-Sharif] There has been a change of tone and terminology but we have not sensed tangible changes in the Israeli positions. The most significant feature of that round was the Syrian memorandum which said, for the first time, that a just and lasting peace was possible if Israel implemented Resolution 242 to the letter, meaning complete withdrawal from the occupied territories, exchange of land for peace, and mutual respect for each side's right to security. Apart from that, there was an exchange of views and more defining of attitudes. I do not deny that we feel somewhat disappointed because the Israelis are still using the same old language. We hope that when the negotiations are resumed next week the Israelis will bring specific answers to the questions submitted to them.

[Ma'ruf] Does that include the status of Jerusalem which Yitzhaq Rabin said was not negotiable?

[Al-Sharif] It is difficult to judge the statements of Israeli officials because they may be for local consumption to please hardline Zionist elements. I cannot imagine that Yitzhaq Rabin believes that a just and lasting peace with the Arabs is possible without Jerusalem. He would be

deluding himself if he thought so. The Arabs and the Palestinians will not forfeit Jerusalem or its Arabism. What applies to the territories occupied in 1967 must apply to Jerusalem. The Knesset's decision to annex Jerusalem was not recognized by any state in the world because it is rejected and runs contrary to international law. Just as there is some talk now about Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, regarding which there were similar [Knesset] decisions, I believe Jerusalem will not be excluded from the negotiations.

[Ma'ruf] There is much talk about settling the Palestinians in Jordan.

[Al-Sharif] That matter has not been raised with Jordan so far. We are against settling the Palestinians in Jordan. We cannot possibly accept that, because the Palestinians have a right to repatriation under international law. If some Palestinians must be absorbed, then it must be by the states where they reside if these states and the Palestinians concerned are willing to do so, but settlement in Jordan is unacceptable and it is also not possible because we do not have the resources to absorb these large numbers.

In principle, a just solution is one whereby the Palestinians return to their homes. They have more right to that than the Soviet [Jewish] immigrants.

[Ma'ruf] There is some fear that the current reactivation of the negotiations is linked to the U.S. elections.

[Al-Sharif] I do not believe that the negotiations are linked to the U.S. elections and I do not believe that their future depends on the success or failure of President Bush, because they are now a U.S. commitment. Furthermore, before the negotiations, both the Arabs and Israelis arrived at the conviction that a military solution was impossible and that neither would be able to wipe out the other, and that coexistence between the Palestinians and the Israelis was the solution. That is why they are searching for a settlement that, although not fully satisfactory, would fulfill the minimum aspirations of both sides.

[Ma'ruf] How do you assess the coordination among the Arab delegations to the negotiations and the Arab support for these delegations?

[Al-Sharif] The coordination among the Arab parties is good. Although these are bilateral negotiations, they coordinate continuously and they are unanimous in rejecting any separate solution and in maintaining that the final solution must be a collective one.

Regarding Arab support, I do not know what you mean by that. Unfortunately, the delegations feel bitter and frustrated because of Arab fragmentation. Only the parties whose hands are in the fire are trying to solve their problems separately without any Arab support. If there is any support, it is insignificant weak moral support from a distance.

[Ma'ruf] Is an Arab summit contemplated?

[Al-Sharif] At present there is no such contemplation or any move to hold an Arab summit conference. I say that what is now required is a renewal of dialogue among the Arabs. That is the least they could do. Just as they are holding dialogues with the Israelis and the Americans, the Arabs should hold a dialogue among themselves. We wish to see an end to the coolness now prevailing in the Arab world, we wish to see warmth coming back.

[Ma'ruf] What is the state of your relations with the Gulf states and Egypt?

[Al-Sharif] Regrettably, the Gulf attitude is still governed by what happened during the Gulf war. The brothers in the Gulf are still using the logic of boycott and revenge. We hope that will end soon. There have been some positive signs, such as the cables exchanged with His Majesty King Husayn after his recovery from his surgery. We hope that this is the beginning of relaxation but so far there have been no other steps. We realize that this takes time, and we are not in a hurry.

As regards Egypt, we have the beginnings of a Jordanian-Egyptian dialogue at various levels. I here mention President Mubarak's initiative in contacting his majesty the king twice. We believe that improvement and development of relations with Egypt would be a positive thing not only for Jordan but also for Egypt and the entire Arab world. Egypt, which embraces the Arab League, should not be satisfied with embracing just half the Arabs but should embrace all the Arabs.

[Ma'ruf] Have U.S. pressures on Jordan eased since King Husayn's meeting with President Bush in Washington?

[Al-Sharif] The pressures are linked to the inspection of ships arriving at al-'Aqabah port. They are still there because they are a part of the blockade against Iraq, but less intense now. I believe, however, that the Jordanian position on the Gulf crisis was better understood after the Washington meeting.

[Ma'ruf] Days have passed since the declaration of a no-fly zone in southern Iraq. Do you still fear that this might be a Western move to partition Iraq?

[Al-Sharif] We feel that move is dangerous and should not have been taken because it does indeed constitute an interference in Iraq's internal affairs. It has now been proved that there are no military operations in that area. The West has admitted that openly. Therefore, that move was unjustified, unless it was made in the context of a plan to tear Iraq apart and undermine its sovereignty and unity, in which case it stands condemned and rejected because Iraq has been united since the dawn of history. The attempt to divide it into Shiites and Sunnis or Kurds and Arabs is a serious precedent as a move to divide the Arab world as a whole. No Arab party should have encouraged such moves against Iraq.

We wish that these provocations against Iraq and interference in its internal affairs would end soon and wish

the blockade against it would be lifted. The blockade against Iraq is unprecedented and has no moral or legal justification.

[Ma'ruf] What about the blockade against Libya?

[Al-Sharif] That, too, is unjustified. This problem (the Lockerbie crisis) could have been solved through direct negotiations. The Arab League has intervened and there are still some mediations aimed at resolving the matter between the Security Council and the Libyan authorities.

[Ma'ruf] How do you view the recent elections in Lebanon?

[Al-Sharif] That is an internal matter that concerns the Lebanese brothers. We have no comment to make on it. I admit that what has happened constitutes a problem which we fear might plunge Lebanon back into its previous war. We hope that the wisdom of the parties concerned would solve the problem.

*New Group Calls for Parliamentarians' Release

92P40275A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Sep 92 p 4

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A statement was disseminated in the Jordanian capital, Amman, the day before yesterday by a grouping of party committees, union activists, and political personalities calling itself the "grouping of anticapitulation forces." The statement demanded the immediate release of the two members of the House of Representatives detained pending investigation in the "Islamic Mobilization Youth" case—Ya'qub Qirrish and Layth Shubaylat—in addition to the release of all political detainees.

The statement said that "the grouping of anticapitulation forces is following with concern the atmospherics that have surrounded and are surrounding the arrests of the two deputies, Engineer Layth Shubaylat and Shaykh Ya'qub Qirrish. This is the first time in Jordan's history that a case has garnered such a climate of rumors and accusations even before the state security's public prosecutor has begun investigating the charges against the two honorable deputies."

The statement also accused the press and the general public of an unprecedented "stance of blind accusation without legal support." It said that the matter does not end here, but might go as far as the issuing of the death penalty.

The statement carried the names of the following groups: the Muslim Brotherhood Society, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party (unified organization), the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Jordan, the Arab Popular Liberation Movement, the Jordanian People's Revolutionary Party, the Arab Vanguard Movement, the Progressive Democratic Nationalists, the Social Nationalists in Jordan, and a great number of State Council members and political, nationalist, national and Islamic personalities.

Agreement To Reschedule German Debts Signed

JN1709124992 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 17 Sep 02

[Text] The Jordanian Government signed an agreement with the German Government to reschedule German loans to Jordan, totalling 76 million marks.

Finance Minister Mr. Basil Jardanah and the German ambassador in Amman signed the agreement.

The agreement stipulates the rescheduling of 68 million marks presented by the German Construction Bank to be repaid during a period of 10 years after a grace period of 10 years.

Another 8 million marks presented by the Insurance Institute for German Exports will be repaid during a period of seven years after a grace period of eight years.

Al-Sharif, Iraqi Daily Editor Review Arab Press

JN1609160392 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Sep 92 p 8

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif has received AL-JUMHURIYAH Editor-in-Chief Sa'd al-Bazzaz. They exchanged opinions on the current situation in the Arab press and its future tasks in the Arab homeland. Al-Sharif stressed the need to protect the Arab press from attempts to depart from its pan-Arab identity. He also noted the need to develop relations between the two countries and their intellectuals. The meeting was attended by a number of Iraqi journalists.

Cabinet Accepts Ministers' Resignations

NC1609195392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Excerpt] The Cabinet met under President Ilyas al-Hirawi's chairmanship at 1730 today. Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh and a number of ministers participated in the meeting. Ministers George Sa'adah; Nabih Birri; Walid Junblatt; Faris Buwayz; Sami Minqarah; Samir Ja'ja'; and Nazih al-Bizri did not attend. The meeting ended at 2000, and Information Minister Michel Samahah made the following statement:

The Cabinet accepted the resignation of Ministers Samir Ja'ja'; Sami Minqarah; Faris Buwayz; and George Sa'adah. The Cabinet appointed Information Minister Michel Samahah as acting minister of tourism and Justice Minister Nasri al-Ma'luf as acting foreign minister. Defense Minister Michel al-Murr was appointed acting minister of post and telecommunications, according to decrees issued about the matter. [passage omitted]

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1915 GMT on 16 September carries a similar report about the Cabinet meeting that adds the following: "The Cabinet asked the defense and interior ministers to work to clear up the circumstances surrounding the kidnapping of lawyer Nasri al-Khuri Sadr and his colleagues and the kidnapping of Butrus Khawand and to do everything it can within the law to free all those kidnapped as soon as possible."]

New Acting Finance Minister Named

NC1709074792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah followed by remarks in response to a question by an unidentified correspondent following a Cabinet meeting in Beirut on 16 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] The Cabinet held its weekly session at 1700 today, when it discussed the report submitted by the economy and finance ministers about the economic, monetary, and financial situation in the country and the results of the measures adopted by the Cabinet, especially those taken on 14 July 1992. [passage omitted]

The Cabinet discussed the refusal of Minister of State Samir Ja'ja' and Tourism Minister Brigadier General Ahmad Sami Minqarah to exercise their ministerial duties and responsibilities and their declaration of their determination to refuse to participate in the government formed on 16 May. The Cabinet believes that by persisting in their rejectionist position, they are refusing to participate in the government, so their behavior must be regarded as an explicit resignation. One decree was issued, accepting the resignation of Ministers Samir Ja'ja' and Brig. Gen. Ahmad Sami Minqarah, and another followed, appointing Information Minister Michel Samahah as minister of tourism.

The following decrees were also issued:

Acceptance of the resignation of Faris Buwayz, minister of foreign and expatriate affairs, and the appointment of Justice Minister Nasri al-Ma'luf in his place;

Acceptance of the resignation of Post and Telecommunications Minister Dr. George Sa'adah and the appointment of Michel al-Murr, deputy prime minister and national defense minister, to his post.

A decree was also issued appointing Prime Minister Rashid al- Sulh, and not Economy and Trade Minister Samir al-Maqdisi, as acting minister of finance when the minister is out of the country. These were the Cabinet decisions.

[Correspondent] Does putting Rashid al-Sulh in charge of the Finance Ministry mean that the finance minister will resign?

[Samahah] No. With the finance and economy ministers away in Washington by the end of the week, there must be an acting minister of finance other than the minister originally appointed as acting minister, because he will be abroad with the finance minister. [passage omitted]

Communist Party Leader To Resign

NC1709050592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The Communist Party Central Committee received a letter from Secretary General George Hawi announcing his resignation from the Secretariat. The committee began studying the letter and is expected to make a decision, announcing it along with Hawi's letter.

Phalangist Party Discusses Member's Kidnapping

NC1609185092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The Phalangist Party's Political Bureau held an extraordinary meeting at 1715 today under the chairmanship of party leader Dr. George Sa'adah to discuss how to secure the release of kidnapped Political Bureau member Butrus Khawand. Sa'adah read a Political Bureau statement, which describes the kidnapping as the action of a party specializing and proficient in this type of terrorism. Although it is impossible to unequivocally determine who the perpetrators are, the party regards the incident as a message, designed to embarrass it and steer it away from its peaceful course. The statement says that the party will not be the cause or tool for such developments and will not fall in the trap of being drawn into battles that detracts its attention from its political course. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese Forces have strongly condemned Khawand's kidnapping, saying that it is a type of political terrorism that seriously undermines the simplest principles of political action and public freedom.

Buwayz Pressured To Monitor Peace Talks

PM1609145492 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Sep 92 p 3

[Unattributed report: "In Deference to President's and Prime Minister's Wish, Outgoing Foreign Minister Buwayz To Monitor Peace Negotiations Course From Paris"]

[Excerpts] Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Outgoing Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who is currently in Paris, met with Suhayl al-Shammas, general secretary of the Foreign Ministry and head of the Lebanese delegation to the Washington Arab-Israeli negotiations. Lebanese sources said that Buwayz reviewed with Shammas the latest developments in the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations taking place in Washington. He informed the delegation head of developments in the Lebanese position on the negotiations, especially after the Israeli statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Lebanon in which he said that "Israel has no ambitions over the territory of Lebanon, whose present and internationally recognized borders since Israel's establishment we recognize."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh put pressure on Buwayz, who has resigned from the Foreign Ministry, to monitor peace negotiations with Israel in view of the sensitivity of these negotiations on the one hand and in deference to the insistence of Washington, which "does not encourage the idea of making continuous changes in the negotiators' tasks or positions," on the other. [passage omitted]

At another level, Lebanese sources in the French capital have said that a protracted telephone conversation took place between Lebanese Refugees Affairs Minister Ilyas Hubayqah and former Lebanese Army Commander General Michel 'Awn. It dealt with the latest Lebanese developments since the legislative elections stage ended. The sources said that Hubayqah, who is currently in Paris with Defense Minister Michel al-Murr and elected deputy Muhsin Dallul, told Gen. 'Awn that "the fears expressed by the latter regarding alleged arrests among the ranks of his supporters and comrades are incorrect, and those arrested, whether from among Army personnel or civilians, have been arrested for security reasons, and no one will remain in custody except if convicted." [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Returns From Talks With Egypt's Mubarak

JN1609183892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad returned home from Alexandria this evening after holding talks with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in two meetings at the Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria. The first meeting was closed, and the second meeting was an expanded one attended for Syria by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Syrian Ambassador to Egypt 'Isa Darwish. For Egypt, the meeting was attended by Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi; General Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense; Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and the chief of the president's office for political affairs; and Egyptian Ambassador in Damascus 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

During both meetings, both presidents made a comprehensive review of the international, regional, and Arab developments; the stage reached by the Middle East peace process; and the challenges facing the Arab nation in different forms. Both sides stressed the Arabs' need to confront international changes and developments through steps and positions that will avert the dangers threatening the future of the Arab nation and its causes. They also stressed the need for common efforts to improve the Arab situation and to concentrate the work for the sake of the common pan-Arab objectives.

Both presidents also reviewed the state of the Washington peace talks.

President Mubarak held a luncheon banquet honoring the president. Senior Egyptian officials and the president's accompanying delegation attended the banquet.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar', and the accompanying delegation returned with the president.

TISHRIN Views Al-Asad-Mubarak Talks

JN1709080892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Sep 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] TISHRIN devotes its editorial today to President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Alexandria and the talks held with President Husni Mubarak. TISHRIN asserts that the visit assumes great significance, because it occurred at a time when threats against the Arabs are mounting and the peace talks are facing serious difficulties.

The paper writes: This visit has provided a valuable opportunity for a thorough exchange of viewpoints on these talks, which are stumbling due to Israeli maneuvers and evasion of the requirements of just peace.

TISHRIN adds: Naturally, both Arab leaders, Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak, studied these Israeli maneuvers, which do not in any way serve the cause of peace and which, if continued, will lead to the collapse of the entire peace process.

TISHRIN adds: The al-Asad-Mubarak talks also provided an opportunity to confirm the Arabs' adherence to peace; the honorable peace that would end injustice, aggression, and expansion; the peace of the brave that would protect the Arab dignity and provide the Arab nation with security, stability, and rights.

TISHRIN asserts that President al-Asad's visit came at the right time and in the right place. The visit, the paper writes, strengthened the Syrian-Egyptian understanding. It also opened further horizons to deepen Arab solidarity and build a strong Arab position capable of confronting the major threats and challenges facing the Arab homeland.

TISHRIN points out that the visit confirmed the futility of the Israeli attempts to evade the requirements of peace by attempting to fragment the unity of the Arab position.

The paper writes: The president's visit to Alexandria is part of the ceaseless and persistent efforts by leader al-Asad to confront and expose the poisonous Israeli campaign and to prevent it from realizing its evil objectives. Strengthening the Syrian-Egyptian understanding and achieving a common viewpoint by both countries' leaders will undoubtedly help make the Arab position firmer in the face of the Israeli pressures. This would only be a natural result, because understanding between Damascus and Cairo has always been a source of strength for the Arabs and a means with which they can protect their interests, existence, and rights. Therefore, this visit will certainly strengthen the Arabs' confidence in themselves and their resources, solidify the Arab steadfastness, and prevent strategic collapses in the Arab position.

TISHRIN concludes by writing: The entire world now realizes that the ball is in the Israeli court and that Israel must give material and tangible evidence of its desire to achieve peace, which can only be realized by acknowledging the principle of withdrawal from the occupied territories and by abandoning tricks, maneuvers, and the attempts to evade substantive issues. Only then will the road be open for a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

Daily Notes Presidents' Talks, Lebanese Elections

JN1309074492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Sep 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH writes in its commentary about the meeting yesterday between President Hafiz al-Asad and his brother President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The talks between the two presidents dealt with the situation in the region in general, the situation in Lebanon, and the ongoing peace talks in Washington. AL-BA'TH notes that the two presidents held an in-depth discussion of the situation in Lebanon, particularly in the wake of the elections, which

were held in accordance with the al-Ta'if accord to reinforce the march of reconciliation, which has brought many achievements for Lebanon, particularly security and stability.

AL-BA'TH says: There are other important issues awaiting the reconciliation march. The newspaper stresses that the convergence of Lebanese efforts will facilitate the legitimate government's mission to implement the remainder of the al-Ta'if accord.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: We in Syria remain, as always, ready to do what is necessary to reinforce the march of reconciliation. The fraternal Lebanese people know full well that Syria has left no stone unturned to entrench Lebanon's unity—land and people.

Commentary Views Israeli Peace Talks Response

JN1609155792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The expressions of Arab and international disappointment are increasing following the response that the Israeli delegation brought from Tel Aviv to the peace talks and following reports that emphasize that this response does not match at all the seriousness represented by the Syrian proposals that we endorsed as a basis for a just and comprehensive peace during the first stage of the sixth round of talks. The proposals were welcomed and appreciated by all international circles, particularly the cosponsors of the peace conference.

As Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of our delegation to the peace talks, said, the Israeli paper still concentrates on generalities. It refers to Resolution 242 but does not say how it will be implemented and the measures that Israel should take to do so.

As the Israeli document was being taken to Washington, the official Israeli statements, did not show a desire for a just and comprehensive peace and did not contribute to any progress in the current stage of the peace process.

It is, perhaps, our right to ask, as the world is also asking: What is the use of the Israeli side referring to Resolution 242 if the principle of withdrawal is still taboo or absent from their official political statements? This principle constitutes the basic pillar of peace. What is the use of an announcement by Israel that it is willing to have peace at a time when it is continuing its maneuvers in all directions? Through these maneuvers Israel aims to divide the solution so that its commitment on this Arab front—if such a commitment really takes place—becomes separate from any other commitment on any other Arab front. We have repeatedly said that dividing the solution is a plot against peace and is a deliberate attempt to abort the relentless international efforts aimed at realizing peace. Peace should be comprehensive and just or it will be a false peace that hides Israeli intentions that aim to single out a certain Arab party in order to impose Tel Aviv's conditions on it and seize whatever rights and land it can from this party. In the face of all this, we have always believed, and we still believe, that a unified Arab position is the only way to abort this plot against peace and that the Arab cooperation, consultation among the Arab parties concerned with the peace process—and reaching an agreement on every step we make in this context—is the way to force Israel to recognize all Arab rights without exception.

Syria, which is properly shouldering their pan-Arab responsibility, will not allow any enemy of the pan-Arab cause to open any hole in the Arab position. This task makes Syria always active with the aim of meeting with Arab brothers whenever it is necessary in order to consolidate the Arab position and to see that the road ahead of us is clear to the end.

Leader al-Asad's visit to Alexandria today is being held in time and within the framework of Syria's continuous efforts to strengthen Arab solidarity; to agree on all issues that serve the Arab interests; and to continue the peace battle based on justice and while we are in a strong position. This strength is derived from our solidarity, unity of position, and our clear vision of the far future.

Dailies See Need for Change in Israeli Positions

JN1509083792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Sep 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "There Can Be No Peace Without Territory," the newspaper AL-BA'TH writes: The initiative based on the principle of trading land for peace constitutes the basis of the peace negotiations. Similarly, it was the factor that prompted us to agree to embark on peace efforts to ensure the implementation of UN resolutions. Because the United States is the party that launched this initiative and because it is well aware of Israeli intentions, we were firmly convinced that the U.S. Administration would neither allow its efforts to fail nor back down on its pledges, especially when the issue at stake is of crucial importance to it, namely, attaining peace in a region that is of vital importance to U.S. interests. Besides, the United States has been sponsoring the peace talks from the outset, which gave rise to some optimism, especially since we used to see the United States continuously using the veto and demonstrating a constant determination to support Israeli injustice.

AL-BA'TH adds: Now, the Arabs, through positions and practical measures, have shown that they are endeavoring to achieve peace and that the obstacles standing in the way of Middle East peace have always been laid by Israel. Consequently, the United States is dutybound to vindicate its initiative and to realize the dangers inherent in the continued Israeli rejection of UN resolutions.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel is attempting to partition peace, as if peace were a commodity that can be retailed. By so doing, Israeli rulers have chosen to forget that the Arab-Israeli conflict did not come into being in 1967 and that the occupation of the Golan, the West Bank, Gaza, and southern Lebanon does not reflect the beginning of this conflict but rather the result of the occupation of Palestine and the displacement if its people.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH writes: The Palestinian people's cause is at the heart of the conflict. Hence, any attempt to divorce peace from the issue of Palestine is rejected. Likewise, a revival of separate solutions is also rejected, because the issue is a comprehensive one and also because peace would be credible only when there is an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

Under the headline "The Criterion for Responsiveness to Peace Efforts," the newspaper TISHRIN writes: Once again, all eyes are turned to Washington, where the sixth round of peace talks are being held. Given its crucial significance to the regional peace process, observers are attaching special importance to these talks.

TISHRIN adds: Now that Syria has spelled out in a document the bases of a just and comprehensive peace and showed its political credibility as well as its complete and positive responsiveness to the requirements, challenges, and components of peace, Israeli responsiveness to the peace process must come through a drastic change in its conduct, approaches, practical positions, and political practices.

TISHRIN affirms that an Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 is the basic element that Israel must provide if it were to show a true and genuine responsiveness to the requirements of peace.

Concluding its commentary, the paper writes: The peace road is not walked through maneuvering and creating difficulties, nor by promoting partial solutions or phased settlements. It has become abundantly clear that such solutions and settlements do not achieve the desired peace, which would achieve comprehensive security and peace and restore rights to their owners.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments about the same issue. Under the headline "A Comprehensive Peaceful Solution," the paper writes: Even though the resolutions of international legitimacy are extremely clear regarding the required comprehensive solution, the Israeli handling of the peace process has remained divorced from the ground rules and essence of this solution, because the Israeli position has been marked by greed and aggression. Israel is endeavoring to emerge from these talks with the largest possible financial and political gains. As for the settlement desired by Israel, it is not the peace desired by the world and the Arabs. If Israel believes that it can derail the talks to achieve objectives that have nothing to do with true peace, it is nursing delusions, because the Arab delegations headed for the talks determined to achieve a comprehensive solution on all fronts.

Afghanistan

Hezb-e Eslami Threatens Attack on Airport

BK1709003492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1717 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 16 (AFP)—A mojahedin group accused Afghan government forces of bombing rebel-controlled Shindand air base five times Wednesday in violation of last month's ceasefire.

The report by Golboddin Hekmatyar's party, Hezb-e Eslami, which could not be independently confirmed, alleged that the latest bombardment of the air base in far-west Afghanistan destroyed a munitions depot and a helicopter.

The group, which has repeatedly accused the government over the last two weeks of attacking Shindand air base, warned of retaliatory attacks on Kabul airport and Bagram air base, near the capital, if the bombings continued.

The Hezb statement denounced what it called further violations of the August 29 ceasefire accord, saying a clause guaranteeing the expulsion of Uzbeki militia from Kabul had not been implemented.

Hezb warned it would relaunch the assault on Kabul, which claimed many thousands of lives in August, if the accord was not honoured.

President Rabbani Meets With Army Officers

LD1609142792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman and president of the Islamic state, met with a number of Afghan Army officers at Delkosha palace this morning.

BIA reported that during the meeting, Rabbani spoke about the country's political and military situation and the peaceful measures Afghanistan has adopted, as well as about the Army's effective activities and its role in establishing peace and security in the country. He praised their sacrifices and activities in consolidating Afghanistan, as well as their service to the people and country.

During his conversation, Rabbani emphasized the maintenance of peace and security in Kabul and in the country's provinces. He stated that Afghanistan and the faithful nation appreciate the activities and heroism of the Army's mojahedin, and, in particular, they respect their role in the recent events toward maintaining security in Kabul. We hope all mojahedin of the Afghan Army, in consideration of Afghanistan's great need and the current situation of the country, will take the necessary efforts toward establishing peace and security and preventing insecurity with high morality.

In reply, a number of officers, on behalf of others, spoke and expressed full readiness for consolidating the Islamic state and for defending peace, independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Hekmatyar, Pakistani View Cease-Fire Violations

LD1609220292 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] A responsible source of the Hezb-e Eslami told a correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom that yesterday Mawlana Fazl Rahman, a great religious scholar of Pakistan and leader of the Society of Scholars of Islam [Jami'at ol-Ulama-ye Eslam], spoke by radio contact with Brother Hekmatyar, and discussed the current situation of Kabul and the cease-fire. Mawlana Fazl Rahman offered to start his good offices to resolve the current problem in Kabul. The source told our correspondent that Brother Hekmatyar provided Mawlana Fazl Rahman with information on the current situation and the repeated cease-fire violations by the coalition administration of Kabul. He asked him to draw the attention of Rabbani and his other friends to the fact that the consequences of these repeated violations will definintely be very grave and dangerous.

Brother Hekmatyar told Mawlana Fazl Rahman: We are looking forward to your coming to Afghanistan. Only last night they bombarded Shindand air-base seven times. We were forced to tell the peace delegation that unless this series of violations was stopped, we would take a similar action. We asked the delegation to stop this series of violation very soon. Brother Hekmatyar added: Today there was a meeting of our commanders, and we were forced to assess ways of reaction. But we are still waiting for the peace delegation to respond. Finally the delegation also accepted the Islamic Party's truthfulness and the adherence to the cease-fire accord, and in an interview with BBC approved the stance and adherence of the party, and [words indistinct] the violation of the other side.

We are waiting for you to tell Rabbani to stop this series of violations by 1600 today. Our correspondent adds that in response to Brother Hekmatyar's remarks Esteemed Mawlan Fazl Rahman said: We will, God willing, come to Afghanistan. Our remarks have been published here today in Pakistani newspapers in which we have noted the Rabbani government violations. I will tell Rabbani to stop this series of bombardments and to ensure the security of Kabul themselves. I have told Rabbani that I will first meet with Hekmatyar and then with him. I will tell him to stop violations of the accord. Mawlana Fazl Rahman added: I ask you for further endurance. You have always been patient. We hope you exercise more patience. At the end of the conversation Brother Hekmatyar said: From our side be reassured. We are ready for any kind of assistance for you. We want to resolve the problem. If we put much emphasis on some points, it was for Islam and the interests of our country. We agree with your efforts.

India

Security Tightened in Strike-Hit Bihar State

BK1709035692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] In Bihar, security arrangements have been further tightened in Chota Nagpur and Santhal parganas [administrative subdivisions], especially in the mining fields and interstate roads. The step has been taken in view of the economic blockade call given by the All Jharkhand Students Union and Jharkhand People's Party to press their demand for a separate state. Our Ranchi correspondent reports trucks loaded with coal and other minerals are being provided with police escort in the sensitive areas. According to police sources, special force has been deployed in Lal Mathia-Farakka meter-guage route to ensure adequate supply of coal to NTPC [National Thermal Power Corporation] from Rajmahal project mine in Gota in Eastern coalfields. Patrolling has been intensified all along the railway tracks in the Chota Nagpur-Santhal parganas region. At least 134 persons were arrested in connection with the first day of the 15-day economic blockade. The state government has sought three additional companies of Central Industrial Security Force to guard vital installations. Thirty-five companies of Bihar Military Force and 19 companies of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] have already been deployed in the region. The sources said that the Government has directed the officials to deal firmly with those indulging in arson and to take suitable steps to ensure free and unabated movement of traffic and production in the industrial installations.

Meanwhile, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader in the Bihar state legislature, Mr. Lalmuni Chaubey, has asked the Jharkhand groups to withdraw their agitation in the wider interest of the region. He urged the prime minister to convene an all-party meeting to solve the Jharkhand problem. Mr. Chaubey told our Patna correspondent that the BJP is favoring the creation of a small state, but it feels that no new state can be formed without wide- ranging consultations with the parties and people in the region. The state council of the CPI [Communist Party of India] has also urged the Center to convene an all party meeting on the Jharkhand issue. It may be recalled that Prime Minister Narasimha Rao is calling a meeting of the Opposition leaders to discuss the issue.

Opposition Criticizes Oil Products Price Hike

BK1609165292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] The hike in the prices of petroleum products has come into sharp criticism from almost all major political parties, barring the Congress-I. The move has also been criticized by trade unions and business and industrial circles. While the opposition parties accused the government of taking this measure at the dictates of the Intenational Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the Congress-I has said the hike was inevitable.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has expressed apprehesions that the rate of inflation will again reach double digit figures. The party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, said it will launch a nationwide agitation against the hike.

The Telugu Desam MP [member of parliament] and member of the National Front Secretariat, Mr. M. Padmanabham, said it will have a spiraling effect on the general price situation.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr. V.P. Singh, told newsmen in Kanpur that the hike will adversely affect the middle caste people.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] has said that it will have a cascading effect and lead to increase in the prices of other commodities. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has criticized that it is totally unjustified and said it will lead to all-around increase in prices.

The INTUC [Indian National Trade Union Congress] president, Mr. S. Ramanujam, has appealed to the Center [central government] to reconsider its decision, as it will prove to be counterproductive. The All India Trade Union Congress said the government is increasing the burden on the common man in the name of economic reforms and structural adjustments.

The Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has issued a statement in New Delhi, saying that the step could have been avoided to ensure some measure of stability of prices, as the inflation has been brought down to a single-digit level recently. The Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry has said that the cost of industrial products will increase because of the rise in raw material and transport cost.

The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, has said the price increase of petroleum products became inevitable, as the cost of production has gone up and the subsidies have to be gradually reduced, if the new economic policies are to succeed. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he strongly refuted the allegation that there was any pressure from international companies to increase the prices. Mr. Gadgil said the poor will not be affected by the increase, as the price of kerosene remains untouched.

The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has justified the hike. He told newsmen in London that it is aimed at strengthening the resource generation capacity of the oil sector and to reduce the fiscal deficit. The minister of state for petroleum, Mr. Krishna Kumar, said that the price hike is to reduce the deficit in the oil pool account. The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has also justified the decision.

Commentary: Pawar's Russian Visit 'Good Success'

BK1609140792 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Commentary by Sunil Kapur, DAINIK BHASKAR's New Delhi Bureau Chief]

[Text] The week-long visit of the Indian defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, the first by an Indian minister since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, can be said to be successful in more ways than one. His meetings with Russian leaders and officials, including his counterpart, General Pavel Grachev; the acting prime minister, Mr. Yegor Gaydar; and the secretary of state, Mr. Gennadiy Burbulis, not only brought the two countries close but also helped the restoration of supply of spares for defense equipment. The discussions made it clear that India and Russia shared similar strategic perceptions and interests. One of the major aims of Mr. Pawar's visit was to discuss the question of supplies of spares for Russian-made equipment used by the Indian Armed Forces as well as product support. The Russian defense minister even suggested a comprehensive military cooperation agreement, the implications and details of which would be studied by India and would be further discussed when Mr. Boris Yeltsin visits India in January next year. At the political level, Mr. Pawar's visit has helped continue the tradition of high-level contact between India and Russia and to establish that the close bilateral cooperation developed over four decades would continue.

Resurrecting trade with the former Soviet Union is important for India. But the area that does not brook delay is the restoration of military supply relationship. For India, this is critical as the cost of abandoning and replacing systems supplied by the USSR is just not a thinkable option. The problems of the past three years can be summed up from the case of the Air Force's main fighter MiG-29, whose availability went down to less than 50 percent in early 1991. The Soviet equipment has been critical to the Army's combat capability. The navy's major warships, antiship and antiair missiles, sensors, long-range reconnaissance aircraft, and some helicopters are of Soviet origin, and the Air Force is even more dependent with its transport and fighter fleet and air defense missiles having been mainly from the former Soviet Union.

India's earlier relationship with the Soviet Union was based on shared security perceptions and were of a considerable depth. In the arms transfer areas, it involved off-the-shelf supply, licensed production, overhaul as well as a little known technology development relationship. The relationship has worked well and has been one of the successes of its time and mutually beneficial. In fact, Russia is no less interested in selling military equipment to India. In fact, Russia has to sell equipment if it wants to keep the vast military industrial complex functioning and to earn some much-needed money and other supplies. It is also important to note that India has been one of the biggest clients for military equipment of the former USSR.

The erstwhile Soviet Union had more than 1,100 factories employing 7.3 million people in defense industry as well as in R and D [Research and Development]. It had a good export market. Between 1967 and 1973 it exported $8.6 billion worth of arms. The sale went up to more than $34 billion between 1974 and 1979. With the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the changeover from the control to market economy, most of the Soviet states decided to convert their military industrial complex to civil production. With the result, nearly two million workers and 30 percent of their R and D personnel have already left their jobs for civilian occupations. The Russians have since realized that it is not easy to convert MiG factories to make hospital beds. In any case, even in 1989, 40 percent of the output of defense industry was of civilian consumer products, which has now gone up to 50 percent. All the sewing machines, TV's and video equipment, 97 percent fridges, 65 percent washing machines are made by the military sector. But there are inbuilt limits to what Russia can attain.

In contrast to civil goods, the Soviet arms industry has been an effective exporter of products like AK-47, MiG-21, and T-72 and BMP's and at unbeatable prices. Moreover, after going round the exhibitions in UK, France, Dubayy and Singapore, the Russians have realized that it is not easy to gatecrash into the Western arms bazaar even with the new winners in their stable. They could not get even a single buyer for their superb MiG-29. Even China decided to buy SU-27. The Russians can't afford to lose their old clients which helped them earn hard currencies or goods most needed by the Russian people. Despite the disarmament policy, the United States, Britain, and France are good competitors in the arms sale market.

The interdependence that the two countries have on each other has a long-term perspective. Even if the world becomes unipolar, which it would never be, and the cold war paving way to cooperation of a new kind based on economic and trade grouping, the benefits of trusted friendship will ever be sought by both the Russians and Indians. It is in this context, one can say that the visit of the Indian defense minister to Russia has been a good success and mutually beneficial.

Daily Supports Call for Restructuring UN

BK1609072192 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 5 Sep 92 p 11

[Editorial: "Revamping the UN"]

[Text] It is more a Western laziness about admitting the inevitable than anything else that tends to create the impression that a restructuring and reform of the United Nations are a near impossibility. It is a vested interest that perhaps the West wishes to perpetuate. A recasting of the UN would seem essential if a new international order is to come about. It is in this context that the call issued by several NAM [Nonaligned Movement] leaders at the Jakarta summit needs to be considered seriously. The UN Secretary General, Dr Butrus Butrus-Ghali, understandably washed his hands off the subject by saying that a restructuring of the UN would not be possible unless the five permanent members agreed to a revision of the UN Charter. Until the League of Nations

became outmoded the UN Charter was not thought about. When finally the UN was launched at the end of World War II, it reflected only the power pattern the Allied countries represented. Thus, Germany, Italy and Japan—which are now members of the G-7, which decides the economic fortunes of the world—were not considered eligible for the Security Council's permanent membership, because they were the vanquished Axis powers in the war. At the same time, the former Soviet Union, which provided all the justification for Western military build-up during the four decades of the cold war, enjoyed a veto power from the beginning. The modest power, China under the Kuomintang, was also given that status as an ally, although it is doubtful whether the United States and Britain would have agreed to do so had they felt then that in four years China would be overrun by the communists.

With the cold war over, the world looks different. The US took the lead in organising a UN coalition against Iraq in the Persian Gulf war, but it had to look beyond the coalition to Japan for a contribution of $14 billion to meet some of the cost of the war. The assumption that the UN would in the future have to depend on cash-rich Japan (and, perhaps, also Germany) for much of its operational expenses apparently prompted Tokyo to encourage a new proposal for restructuring the UN. It is the concept that the G-7 be expanded to make it a Group of 9 which would be permanent members of the Security Council. The nine would be the existing five permanent members plus the four G-7 members who do not enjoy this status, namely, Italy, Canada, Germany and Japan.

This may be a clever way of trying to retain a Western stranglehold on the UN system but is unlikely to generate a positive response in the developing world. The seriousness of purpose can be driven home by the developing countries if proposals such as have been made by Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mohamed Mahathir are given formal NAM approval. He wants NAM countries to make larger financial contributions to force a greater democratisation of the UN. The present permanent members can resist the increasing demand for making the UN more representative only at the risk of causing an erosion in the UN's authority.

Meanwhile, in sustaining the movement for greater democratisation of the UN, India should fully add its weight to the importance that the NAM forum still commands. Also, India should press its claim for a permanent seat at the Security Council.

Iran

Ahmad Khomeyni Defends Foreign Policy

LD1709104292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Last night at the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] fifth assembly, commanders, officials, Major General Mohsen Reza'i, IRGC commander in chief, and commanders of the three IRGC forces participated in ceremonies at the founder of Iran's immaculate shrine, laying wreaths of flowers and renewing their bonds with the lofty aspirations of Imam Khomeyni, God's blessing be with him.

During these ceremonies, held on the anniversary of the imam's decree on the establishment of the IRGC's three forces, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ahmad Khomeyni praised the valuable role the IRGC has played in safeguarding the Islamic revolution's achievements and in confronting threats against Iran by its enemies. [passage omitted]

Khomeyni stated that the IRGC, Iran's Armed Forces, and other Iranian defense forces are fully ready to defend the territorial integrity of the Islamic homeland and to stand up against provocations by the foreign forces in the region. During his address, he said: Now that the pillars of the system and the revolution have been stabilized, the enemies are increasing their threats compared with the past. In these sensitive conditions today we must maintain the overlordship [siyadat] of the system and the gains of the revolution. We must stand against bullying enemies by sacrificing our lives.

He said that noninterference in other countries' domestic affairs and respect for their territorial integrity are among the principles of Iran's foreign policy.

Referring to unfounded claims on the Iranian islands of the Persian Gulf, he added: Iran has all along accepted reciprocal respect to nations' rights and good-neighborly relations as the principles of its foreign relations. Such baseless claims, fanned by big powers, will never succeed in threatening our territorial integrity.

He stated: Today we take pride in saying, at the immaculate shrine of our dear imam, that thanks to the powerful arms of the revolution and the heroic nation of Iran, we are following his objectives and path with the same determination under the wise leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. We will never yield to America's filthy designs and demands. Our Armed Forces and our people are ready to defend their political, military, and economic independence with all their might. [passage omitted]

Dailies Urge Regional Awareness on Abu Musa

LD1709092292 Tehran IRNA in English 0811 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA—Three morning dailies Thursday commented on the recent controversy over the Iranian Persian Gulf island of Abu Musa.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI warned the regional states to beware of new plots by international arrogance with ABRAR underlining the fear of the big powers from Muslim unity and KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL noting that President George Bush is playing a dangerous

game in the region to prop up his own popularity in the coming presidential elections.

"It is quite clear that global arrogance, the United States in particular, does not wish to see the region see tranquility and security," said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

It added that there were several objectives behind the recent propaganda war against Iran. One was to block the way to the regional states to find a security plan for the Persian Gulf. At the same time, it wants to involve the countries which have no coasts in the Persian Gulf by executing the so-called '6+2' security arrangement. "The arrogance is trying to portray the situation in the region as critical so that despatch of Syrian and Egyptian troops would be justified."

During the past 14 years the propaganda apparatus of the West did not miss any opportunity to misrepresent Iran as a source of 'instability in the region', the paper said, adding that developments in the Persian Gulf war were as such that made regional heads of state admit that Iran was 'an anchor for regional stability'.

It pointed to the United Arab Emirate's reference to 'historical record' on sovereignty over the three islands of Abu Musa, Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek in the Persian Gulf and said: "If geographical demarcation was due to be decided by "historical claims", Arabs in the region would be the main losers."

In that case, it stressed, "territories such as Bahrain and Ctesiphon and many other places where, according to history, used to belong to Iran, should be restored to it."

The article argued as to why the world community, which had adopted a clear stand against Iraq's historical claims over Kuwait, had not done so as regards the UAE [United Arab Emirates] claim over the three islands.

This is the same point that the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i pointed to in his recent remarks on the subject. "Foreign powers intend to sow discord among brothers in order to justify their presence in the Persian Gulf region."

The daily ABRAR also referred to the leader's remarks addressed to the world Muslims on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him), last Tuesday.

"Our message of Islamic unity is a [words indistinct], greatness and stability. We wish that one billion Muslims would truely unite one day," the daily quoted the message as saying.

The leader's statements were made while the Islamic world was being threatened by covert and overt aggressions and various conspiracies of the world arrogance, the daily added.

"In implementing its new world order, America does not want to see the appearance of a huge Islamic power. Therefore it is trying to create rifts, petty disputes among Islamic countries, and prevent them from overall unity-...Today it has made the Persian Gulf island of Abu Musa the cause of division, discord and discontent," the article noted.

Calling on the shaykhs of the region to clearly think to identify [words indistinct], ABRAR said that the U.S. and Britan were still continuing their long-prevalent 'divide and rule' policy to achieve their aims.

"The Islamic nations have learnt the lesson of greatness and honor from [word indistinct] tolerate the insult of domination by world arrogance and its agents for long," it concluded.

Meanwhile, KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL noted that "President Bush and company" were aware of the vulnerability of the pro-Western monarchies in the area. "They are trying to make the most out of the present situation by lending a peculiar [word indistinct] of legitimacy to the UAE's claim to the island and renewing their patently false commitment to the security of 'friendly states'."

The article stressed that on the eve of elections in the U.S. and given the depths of Bush's unpopularity, a new conflict was deemed necessary to redirect domestic public opinion. "What better place than the Persian Gulf? The island of Abu Musa was put on the priority chart."

"It is obvious that the Bush Administration is playing a new and dangerous game in the oil-rich region to prop up its own popularity in the polls and raise lucrative contracts for U.S. manufacturers. The same game was initiated and put into practice to 'liberate' Shaykh Jaber's Kuwait from President Saddam Husayn's army of occupation."

"Come November and the dispute over Abu Musa could take a dangerous turn. President Bush's election strategies have one eye on the campaign and the other on the Persian Gulf where American troops are now geared for action...If instability and adventurism takes the place of peace and harmony in the region, it will not be in the interest of any state and surely not the tiny shaykhdoms that form the UAE."

Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations Reported to UN

LD1709055992 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Iran has reported to the UN 33 cases of cease-fire violations that the Iraqi Army has committed since March 1992.

Details of violations have been reported to the UN secretary general in three separate letters by Iran's mission to the United Nations between 13 February and 21 March 1992, which were publicized today as Security Council documents.

The cases of violations include military movements and strengthening of fortifications on the Iran-Iraq border that did not lead to military clashes or casualties. A

UN-brokered cease-fire between Iran and Iraq went into effect in August 1988 to stop eight years of bloody hostility between the two neighboring countries.

Visa Agreement Concluded With Tajikistan

NC1609170792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Iran and Tajikistan signed an agreement that lifts the visa requirements for diplomatic and service passports holders. Agreements that the Iranian deputy foreign minister and the Tajik foreign minister signed will henceforth enable both countries' citizens to obtain their visas at the airports of the respective countries.

Government To Send Economic Experts to Tajikistan

LD1709080292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Iran will send three economic experts to Tajikistan at that country's request, Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abbas Maleki and Tajik Deputy Prime Minister Dzhamshed Karimov announced yesterday following a meeting.

During the meeting, Karimov said his country is prepared to broaden economic relations with Iran.

Besharati, Poland's Arendarski Discuss Ties

NC1709102392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] At yesterday's meeting, Andrzej Arendarski, Poland's foreign economic cooperation minister, and our Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Besharati discussed the need to expand Iranian-Polish relations in various fields. Arendarski said that Poland attaches special importance to Iran, due to its strategic position, and that Warsaw considers it extremely important that relations with Tehran be improved and expanded.

Besharati referred to the historic ties between Iran and Poland and expressed hopes that the exchange of high-ranking delegations will expand these relations further.

Cartoonist Jailed for Khomeyni Cartoon

NC1709113792 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept 17 (AFP)—A magazine's cartoonist and director have been jailed for publishing a cartoon of former Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni about to kick a football, the daily SALAM reported Thursday.

The small, relatively unknown current affairs magazine, FARAD, was also closed down, in what is thought to be the first press trial made public since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The cartoonist, named as Karimzadeh, was jailed for a year and fined 500,000 riyals (350 dollars at the floating rate) by a revolutionary court. The newspaper, close to religious hardliners, did not say when the trial was held.

His boss, Naser Arabha, was sentenced to six months in jail Wednesday by a special court set up last year to judge violations of press laws. It was the first time it had met, SALAM said.

Arabha, charged with "harming internal security" and "insulting the Imam" is to be released next month, having already spent five months in detention.

The cartoon depicted an elderly religious leader with thick eyebrows, wearing a turban, with parts of his right arm and left leg missing, about to kick an invisible football. It illustrated an article on the dire state of Iranian football.

The cartoon was published in April just ahead of legislative elections and caused a furor among religious hardliners, who mounted demonstrations against "a cultural plot."

The government arrested the two men soon afterwards and closed down the publication. The special tribunal closed it down for good on Wednesday under article 27 of the Iranian press law, which prohibits publications that offend the religious authorities.

Nepal & Bhutan

Parliament Closes After Passing 40 Bills

BK1609135592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1210 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] KATHMANDU, Sept 16 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal closed the third session of parliament Wednesday after a 56-day session that passed 40 bills, a parliamentary source said.

The 40 bills included the Public Offence Amendment Bill, which imposed penalties for damage caused in demonstrations, and the first amendment of the Labour Act.

However, the session was dominated by the Tanakpur hydro-electric power project issue, with the opposition accusing the government of violating the Nepalese constitution for ceding 2.9 hectares (7.2 acres) of land to India to build the plant.

During a visit to India last year, Koirala concluded negotiations with India agreeing to provide the land in return for free power for Nepal.

PRC To Help Construct Cancer Hospital

BK1009010692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1727 GMT 9 Sep 92

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 9 (AFP)—China has agreed to help Nepal construct a 100-bed cancer hospital, state radio said in its evening news broadcast Wednesday.

The radio said a Chinese technical team had visited here last month to carry out a feasibility study and selected a site in Chitaun district 165 kilometres (100 miles) south of Kathmandu for the hospital.

The Chinese will also construct staff quarters for nurses and doctors working in the hospital, a Finance Ministry official said.

Bhutanese Refugee Problem 'Finally' Recognized

BK1509052792 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 2 Sep 92 p 8

[Editorial: Response From Thimpu]

[Text] Prime Minister Girija Prasad's quiet diplomacy with Bhutan has the appearance of finally bringing in some results. The other day, the Bhutanese foreign minister, while meeting with the Prime Minister in Jakarta at the Jakarta Convention Centre, proposed that he would be coming to Nepal soon for talks on the Bhutanese refugees problem. The Bhutanese foreign minister refused to spell out a date and said that it would be worked out mutually. He would only admit that it would be sometime in the middle of October. The purpose of the Bhutanese foreign minister's trip would be to set the groundwork for a meeting between the Nepalese Prime Minister and the Bhutanese monarch. This response from Thimpu comes in the wake of an earlier letter written by the Prime Minister to the King of Bhutan and follow-up to the recent trip to Thimpu by the Foreign Secretary.

It is encouraging that the Bhutanese government has finally acknowledged the need for dialogue on this serious problem of Bhutanese refugees. And in so doing, the Thimpu regime which in the past had been denying that the refugees were Bhutanese, has now finally admitted, through implication, that they are indeed Bhutanese. Time can be expected to run on till the two governments sit and identify the issues in conflict. Meanwhile, the sorry plight of the refugees continues. Their number has now crossed the 62,000 mark and continues to grow unabated. The eastern borders of the country have now become refugee camps. International relief has just managed to trickle in and it is a great strain on this country. Nepal was and is one of the poorest countries in the world but this year's delayed monsoon promises to create food shortages if contingency measures are not taken well in advance. Nepal would be hardpressed to cater to the refugees needs without meeting its own internal demand. This in turn can create serious law and order problems. It is in the interests of both countries to work out a prompt and just repatriation of Bhutanese refugees. This would also serve as a neat illustration of South Asian solidarity. The upcoming SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit could be a productive venue for solving the refugee problem.

Pakistan

Cooperation Agreement With Iran Outlined

BK1609162492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Pakistan and Iran agreed on a nine-point guideline for cooperation on Afghanistan. The decision was made during President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent visit to Pakistan. A Foreign Office spokesman, giving details of the guideline at a briefing in Islamabad, said the two countries welcome the Afghan factions' desire to end confrontation.

Pakistan and Iran appealed to the brotherly people of Afghanistan to refrain from ethnic, linguistic, and sectarian divisions and try to create a broader political consensus by peaceful means. Both Pakistan and Iran reaffirmed their wholehearted support for the Afghan Government and reiterated their resolve to adhere to the internationally accepted norms of noninterference in her internal affairs. The spokesman said Pakistan and Iran emphasized initiating an election process comprising all Afghan groups.

Mauritian Prime Minister Begins Visit 14 Sep

BK1409144492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] The prime minister of Mauritius, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, arrived in Islamabad a short while ago. At the airport, he was received by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. Sir Anerood Jugnauth during his five-day official visit will hold talks with the prime minister tomorrow. The two sides are also expected to sign a cultural agreement.

Sharif Cited on Kashmir, Bosnia,

BK1509033592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif stressed the need for establishing a peace zone in the Indian Ocean region so as to prevent the creation of any military or naval imbalance, which may give rise to aggression or political domination against small countries of the region. He was speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the prime minister of Mauritius, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, in Islamabad last night. Referring to Kashmir, the prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's stand on resolving this issue on the basis of the UN Resolutions.

He condemned the domination and human rights violations committed by Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina. He

thanked Mauritius for extending continuous support to Pakistan on the Afghanistan issue.

Referring to the massive socioeconomic reforms of his government, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said they are aimed at promoting economic progress and welfare by exploiting the capabilities of the private sector. He stressed the need for an early conclusion of the Uruguay Round of talks on commercial issues so as to benefit the developing countries. He expressed the hope that Pakistan and Mauritius will work together with the Group of 77 to realize their common objectives.

Earlier, Sir Anerood Jugnauth held talks with Mohammad Nawaz Sharif on matters of mutual interest. The prime minister of Mauritius expressed his sympathy over the widespread damage caused by the floods in Pakistan.

Regional Issues Discussed

BK1509144092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Pakistan and Mauritius today reviewed regional and international issues, including Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Bosnia- Hercegovina. The Mauritius side, led by the prime minister, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, showed complete understanding of Pakistan's policies on Afghanistan and Bosnia-Hercegovina. On Kashmir he said it is in the best interests of both India and Pakistan to resolve the issue peacefully. At the talks, the Pakistan side was led by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif.

The two sides agreed to further promote cultural, economic, and educational cooperation. The prime minister of Mauritius invited Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif to visit Mauritius. The prime minister acepted the invitation.

After the talks a program of educational and cultural cooperation between Pakistan and Mauritius for the year 1992-93 was signed. This is in pursuance of the cultural agreement of 1975.

Jugnauth Departs 16 Sep

BK1609152092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] The prime minister of Mauritius, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, was given a hearty send-off when he left Islamabad for Lahore. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, saw him off at the airport. On arrival, Sir Anerood was greeted by the prime minister. He was then conducted to a reception line. Among those who bade farewell to the distinguished guest included the speaker of National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan; deputy speaker, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Khokhar; some federal ministers; and members of the diplomatic corps. The prime minister of Mauritius was given salute by a contingent drawn from the three services. National anthems of Mauritius and Pakistan were played. The chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Shamim Alam Khan, and representatives of the three services were also present. Two children in traditional dress presented bouquets to Sir and Mrs. Anerood. Before boarding the plane, Sir Anerood Jugnauth warmly shook hands with the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. Nineteen guns boomed as he boarded the plane.

Editorial Says U.S Weapons Sales Creating Tension

BK1309133192 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 13 Sep 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Politics of F-16s"]

[Text] Pakistan may not have been the first victim of the US politics arms embargo. Iran had similiarly been victimized before, but it is obvious now that that is not the last one. The announcement by the US President George Bush to sell 150 F-16s to Taiwan is the other side of the coin. In the case of Pakistan, which had already paid in full for its 71 planes contracted between the two countries, withholding their delivery was meant to deprive Pakistan of its defense against its traditional rival India—India already had a four times bigger air force. In the case of China, the intention appears to be to boost the fighting ability of Taiwan against any move that China might make to persuade Taiwan to rejoin the mainland. In both cases, however, clearly spelt out bilateral undertakings were violated by a country that does not feel inhibited to claim moral leadership of the world. The difference between its treatment of China and Pakistan though is that China being a nuclear power and a much bigger country, was not expected to take the breach of promise lying down. China, which had been promised a reduction of arms sales to Taiwan, is not as helpless to counter the US moves as Pakistan is. The recently announced Chinese deal to sell nuclear reactors to Iran, even though not armament, has raised hackles in the US State Department. The Chinese threat to walk out of the UN-sponsored disarmament committees, too, has rattled the US. Therefore, unlike its treatment of Iran and Pakistan, the countries the US considers it can afford to ignore, it has rushed emissaries to Beijing and promised communication satellites to soothe ruffled feathers there. This may or may not placate China, but here it is not the Chinese reaction that is important, it is the ethics of the US policies that are under evaluation.

The most dangerous consequence of US policies is creating fresh tensions in areas where all indications were of de-escalation of tensions and resolutions of disputes. Taiwan was clearly moving towards a modus vivendi with the mainland. Armed with 105 F-16s, it may like to rethink that option. Similiarly, both Pakistan and India were showing signs of addressing their disputes more seriously. With a strong Pakistan to contend

with, India would have felt war may not be in its interest. But by withholding the F-16s from Pakistan, the US seemed to be telling India not to give an inch. Where compromise of some sort could have been possible on Kashmir and other disputes, India in fact saw in the US policies a clear go-ahead signal to threaten and browbeat Pakistan. Both Taiwan and India may eventually find that the US signals led them and their regions to disaster, but the US for its part has done its bit to keep the world as divided as ever.